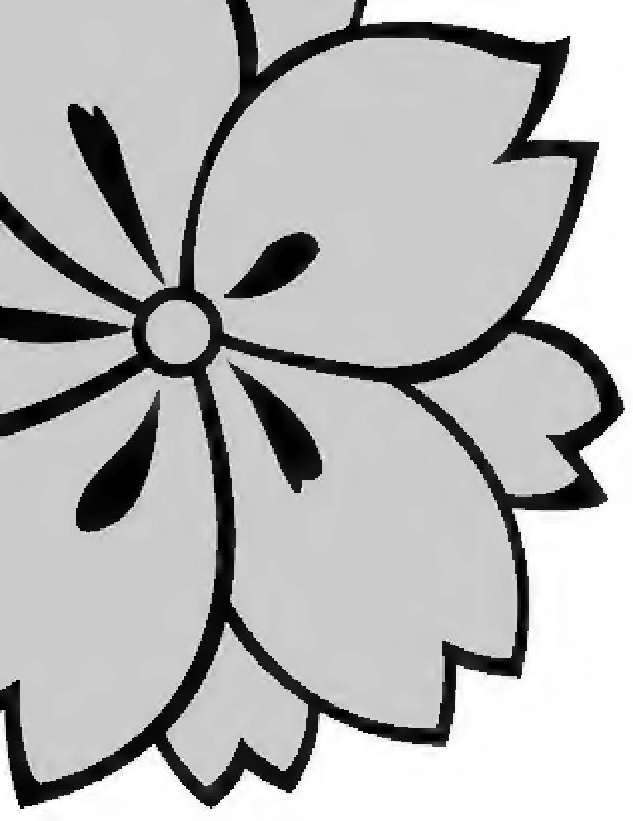
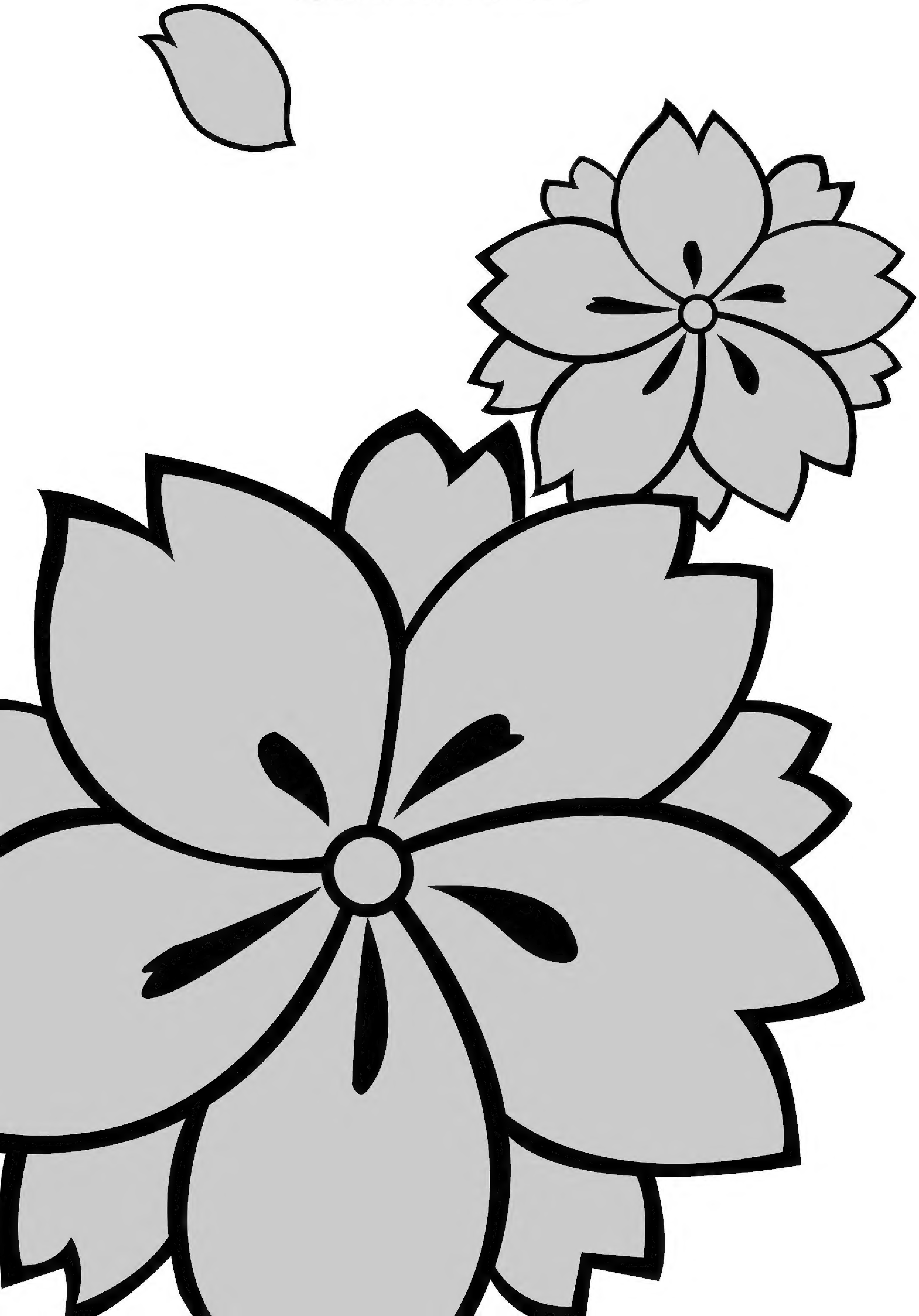
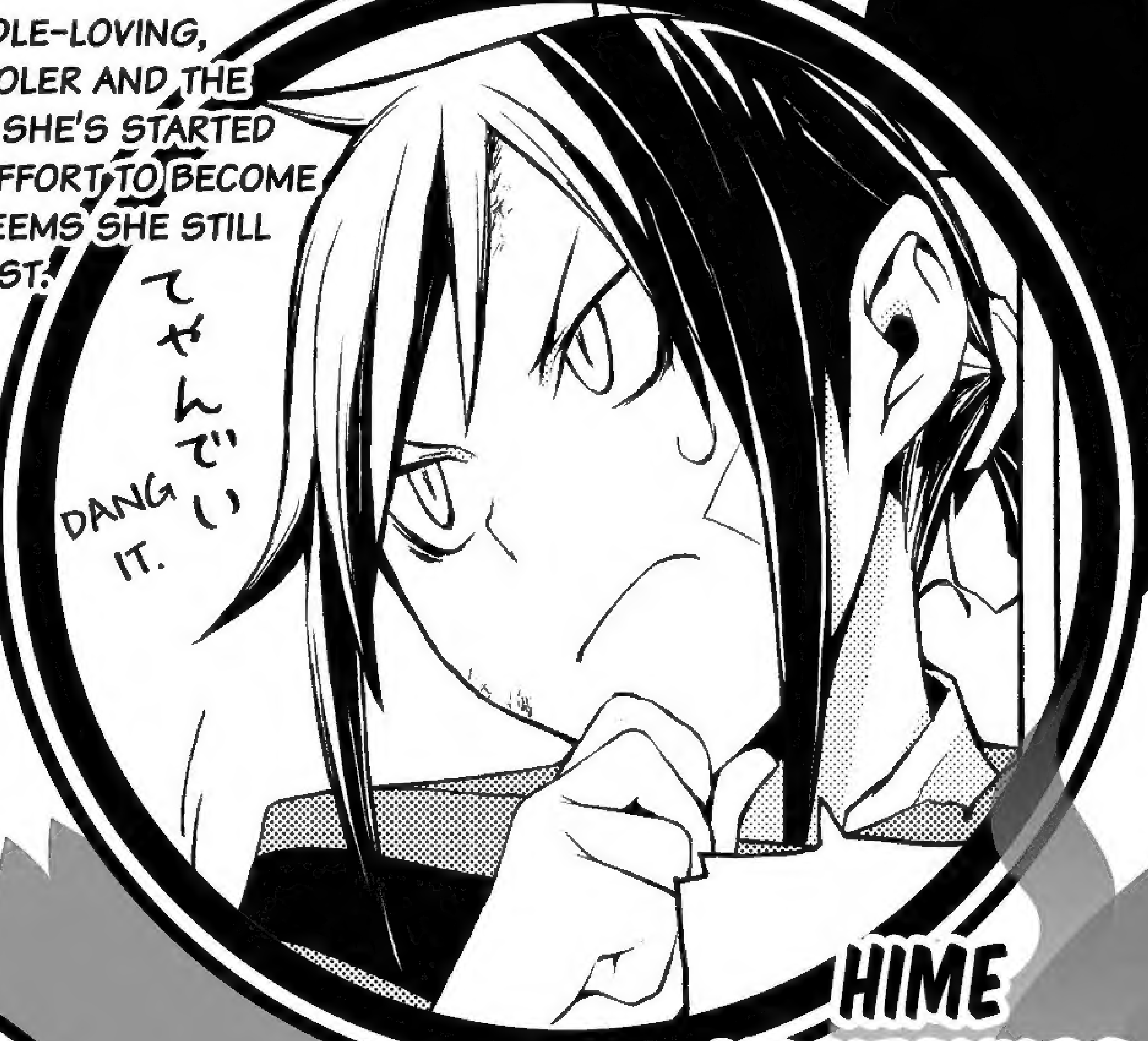
13
Yozakura Quartet
Suzuhito Yasuda

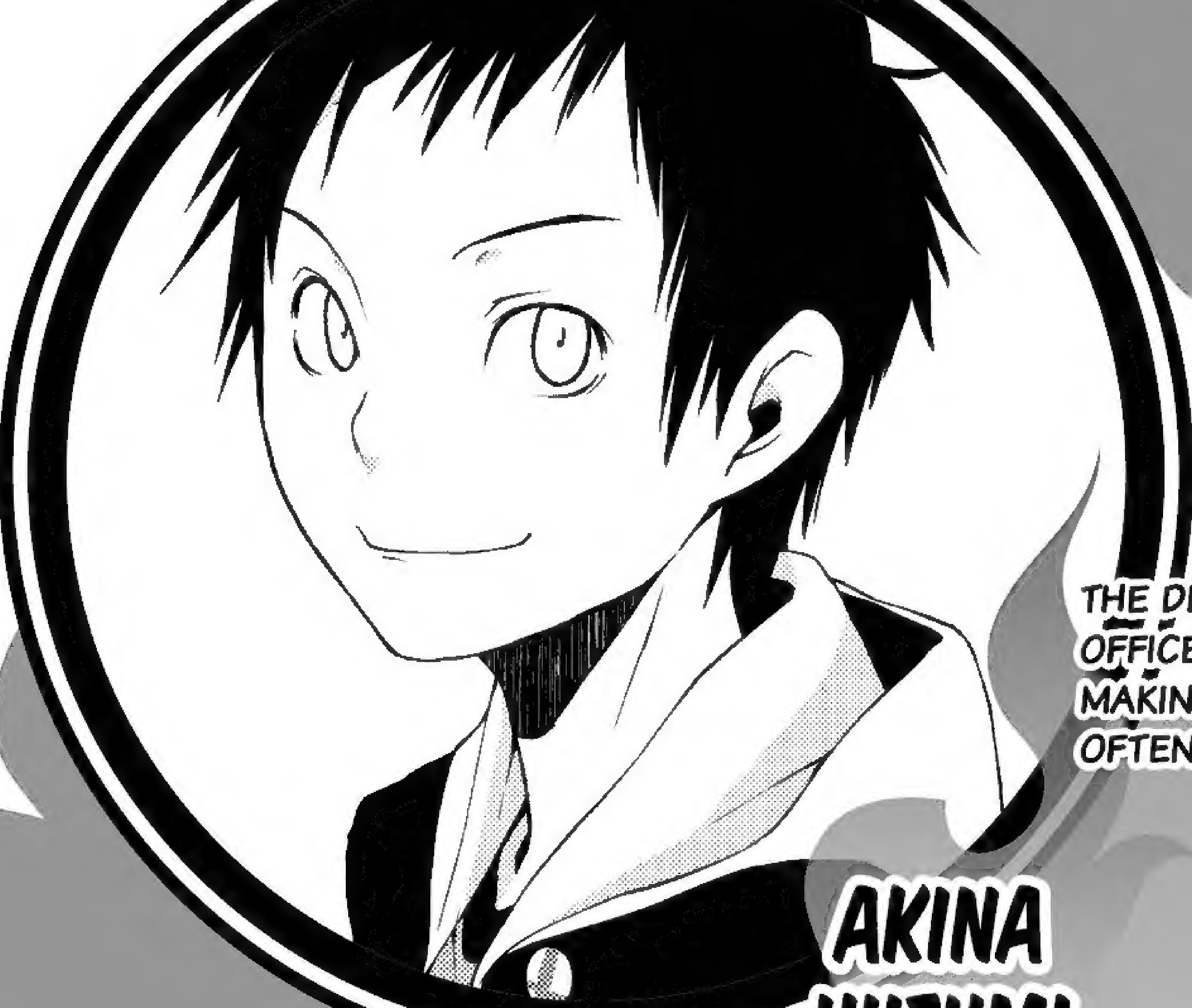


YOZAKURA QUARTET 13



A RAMBUNCTIOUS, MOODY, NOODLE-LOVING, SCARF-CLAD DEMON HIGH SCHOOLER AND THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN. LATELY, SHE'S STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COOK IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. EVEN SO, IT SEEMS SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S COOKING THE MOST.


てやんでい
DANG IT.
HIME YARIZAKURA

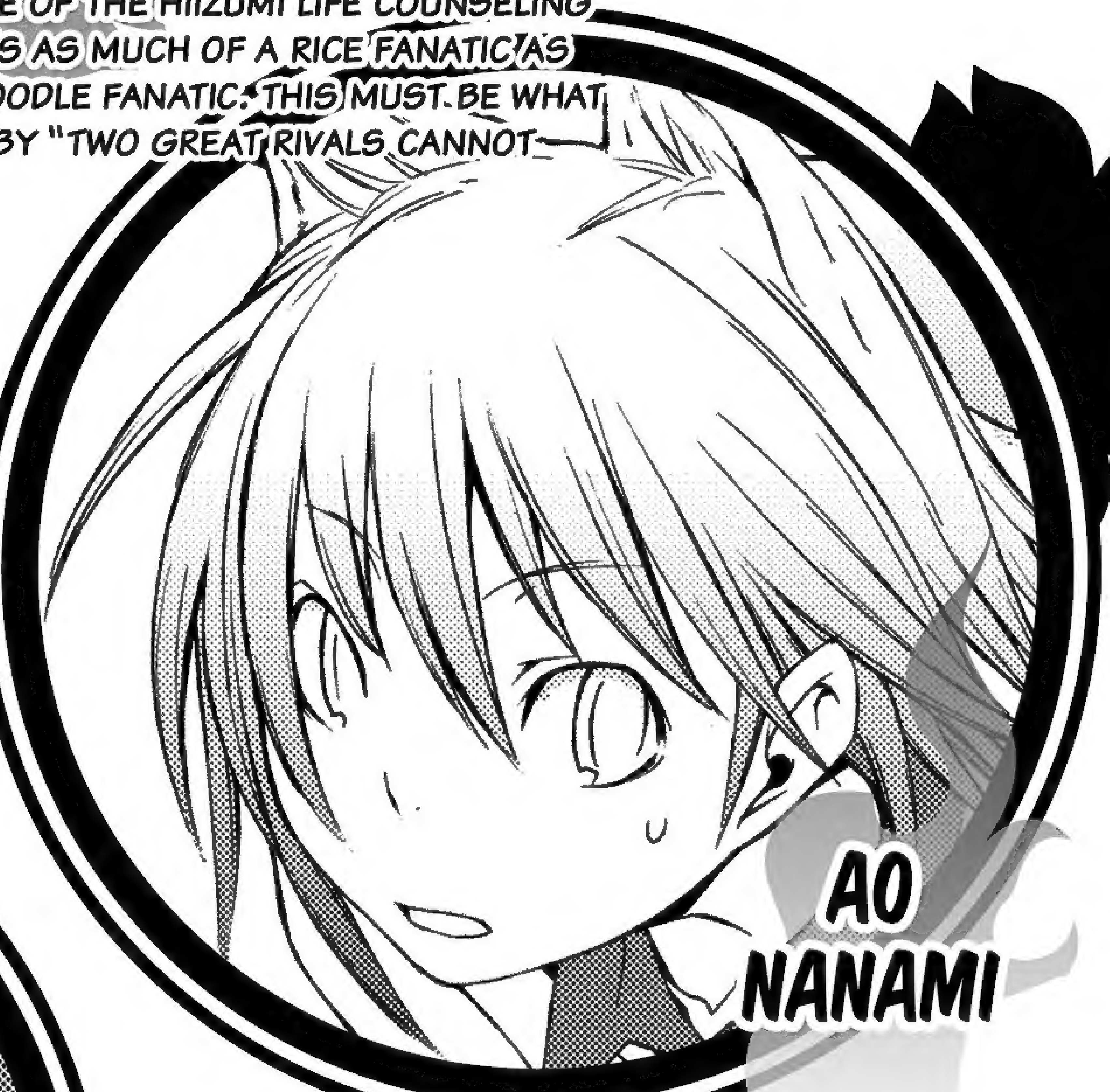


THE DIRECTOR OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. AS ABOUT 20% OF HIS WORKDAY GOES INTO MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

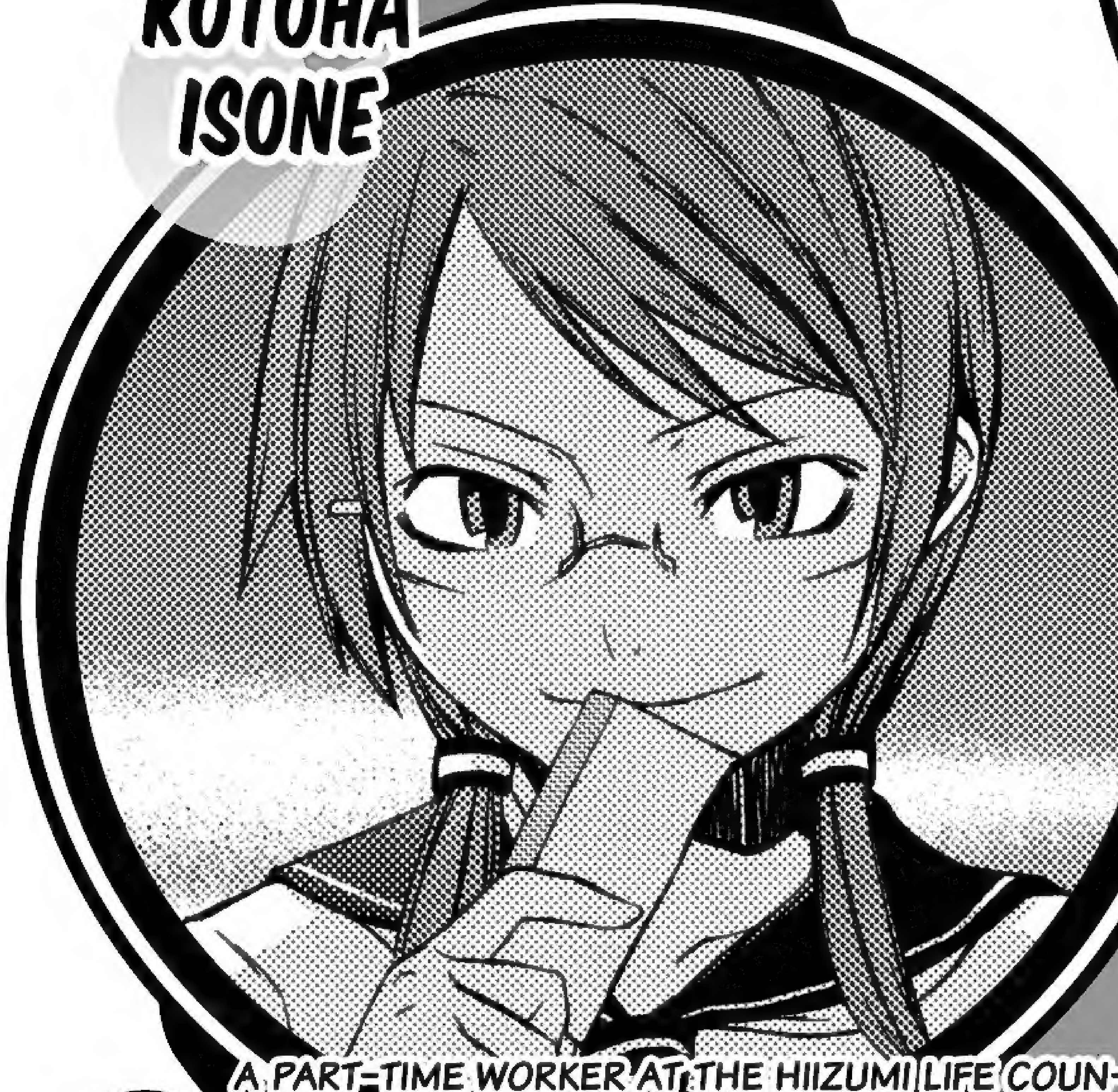
YOZAKURA QUARTET

CHARACTER PROFILE



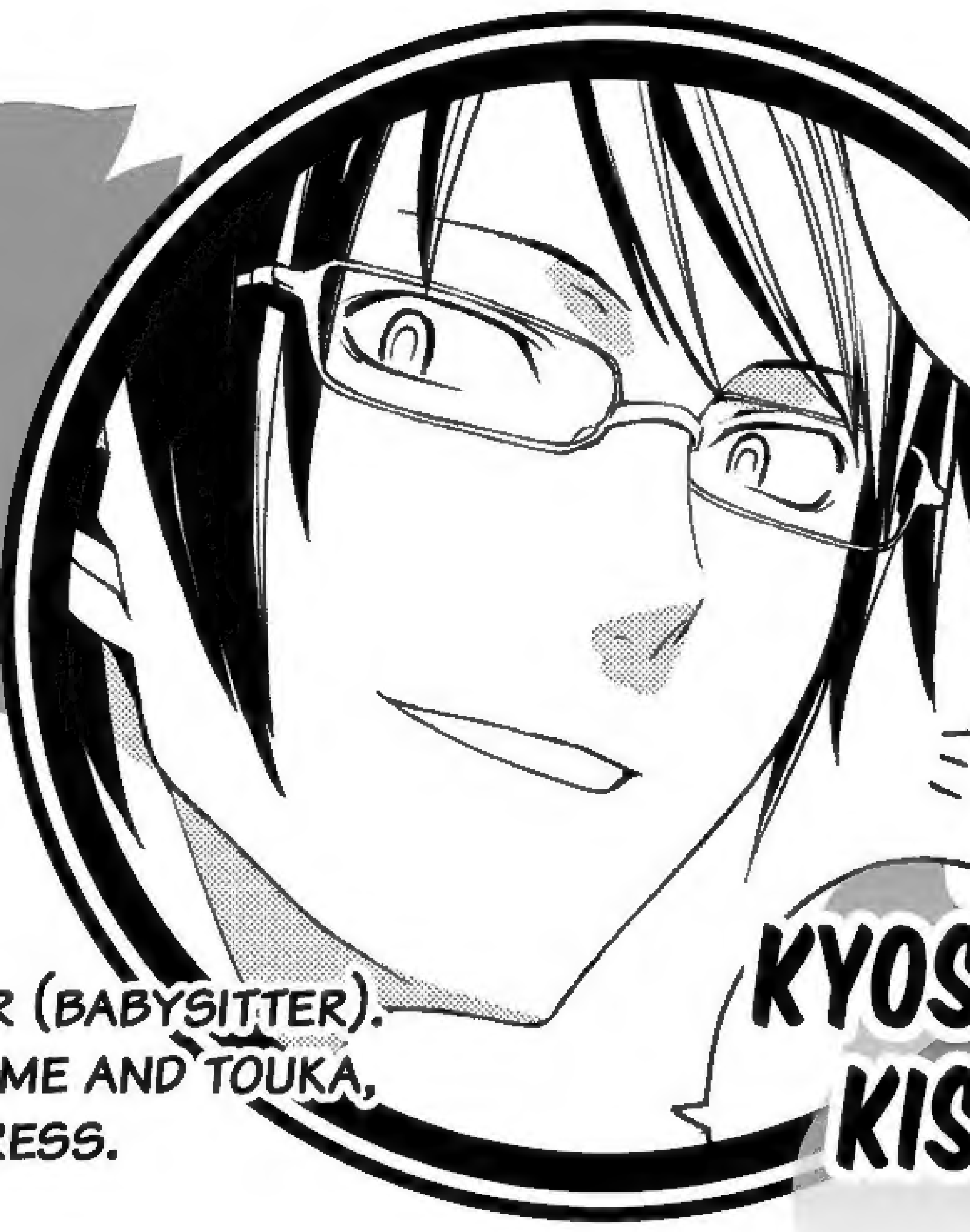
AO NANAMI

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FANATIC AS HIME IS A NOODLE FANATIC. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "TWO GREAT RIVALS CANNOT COEXIST."



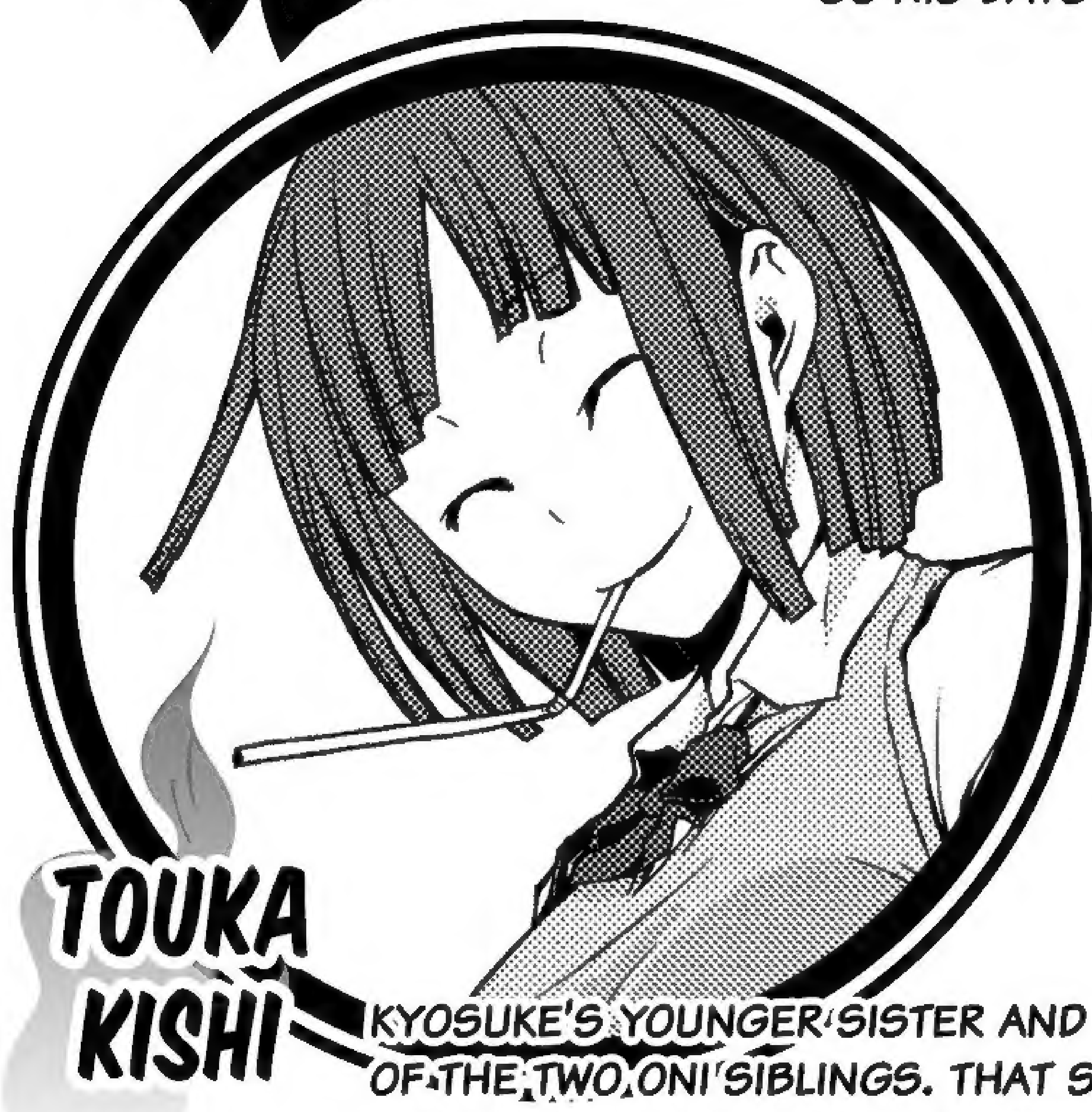
KOTOHA ISONE

A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHÉS, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.



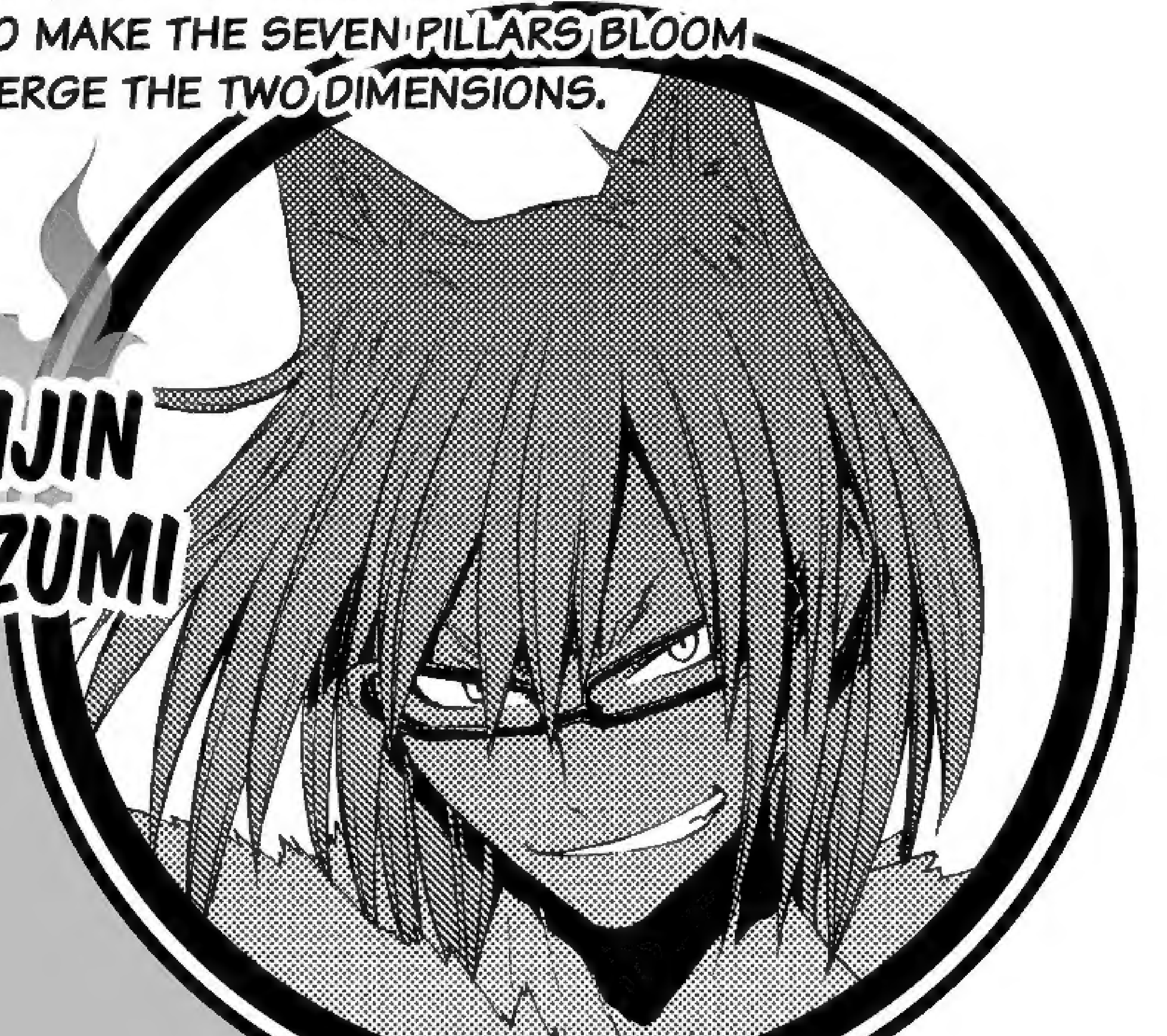
KYOSUKE KISHI

HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.



TOUKA KISHI

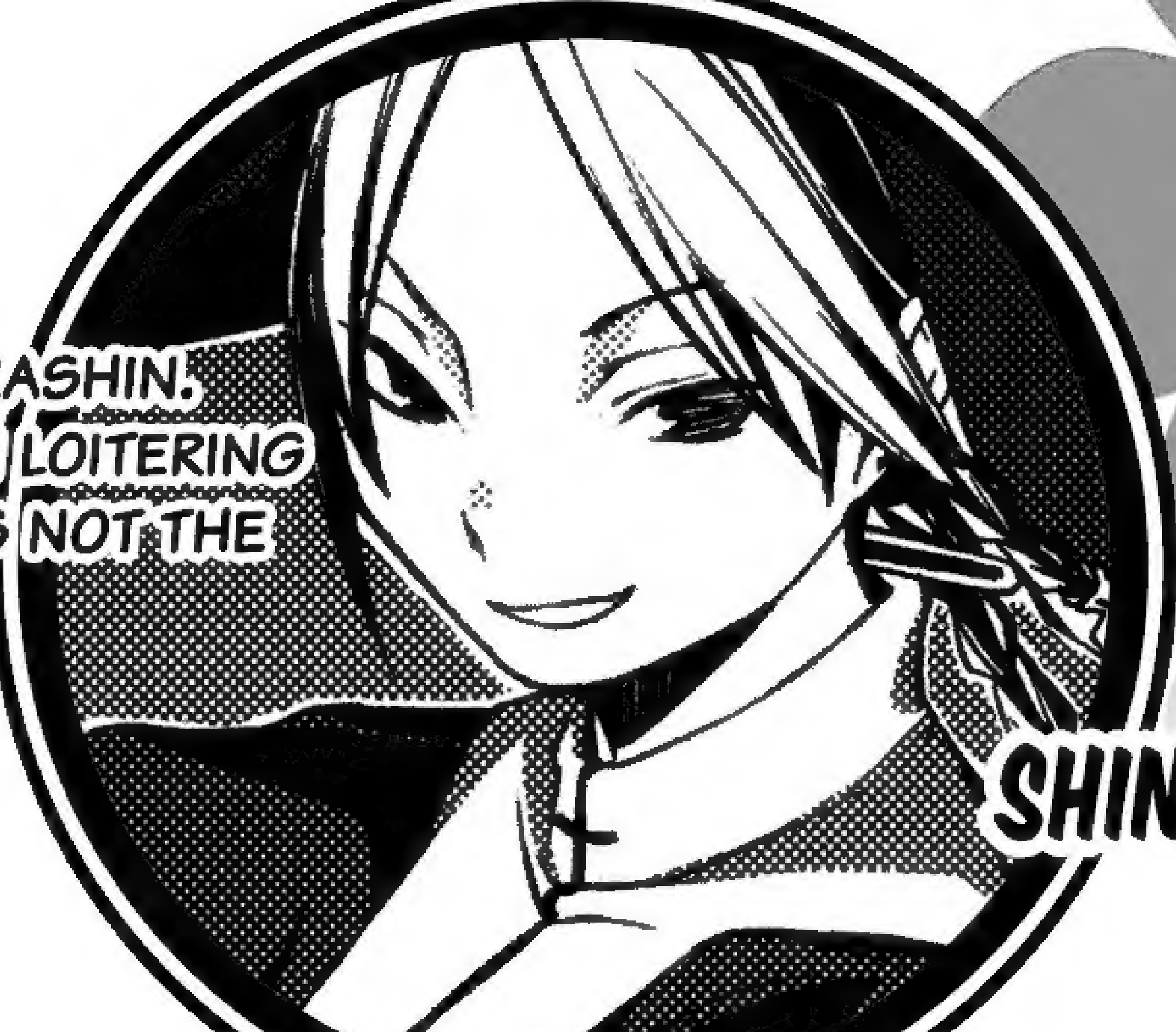
KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND THE FAIRER HALF OF THE TWO ONI SIBLINGS. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE, AS BEFITTING A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. SHE USED TO DO ARCHERY, BUT NOW PRACTICES AIKIDO.



ENJIN HIIZUMI

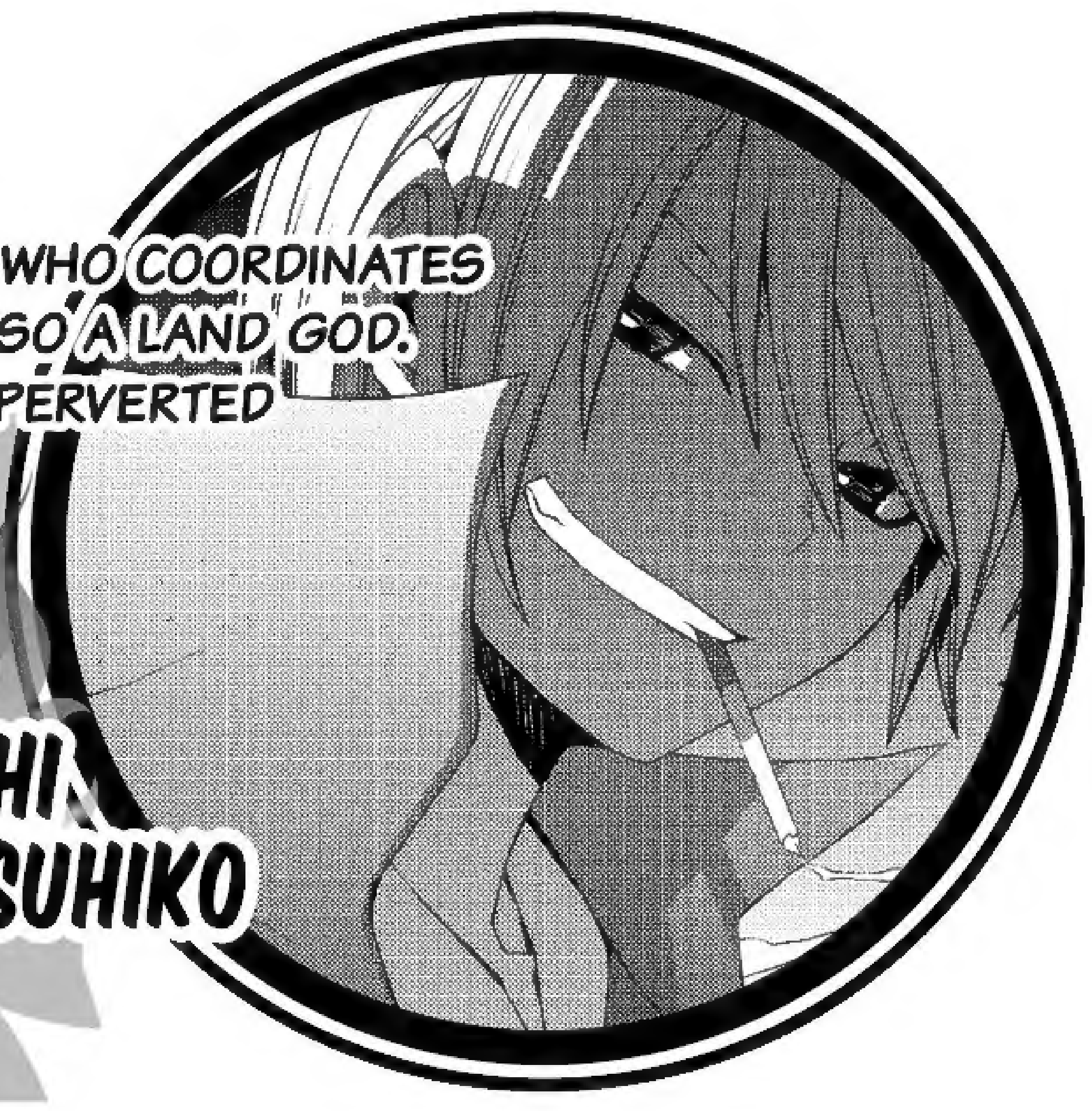
A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.

THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN. SHE CAN OFTEN BE SEEN LOITERING AROUND TOWN, SO SHE'S NOT THE MOST DIGNIFIED DEITY.

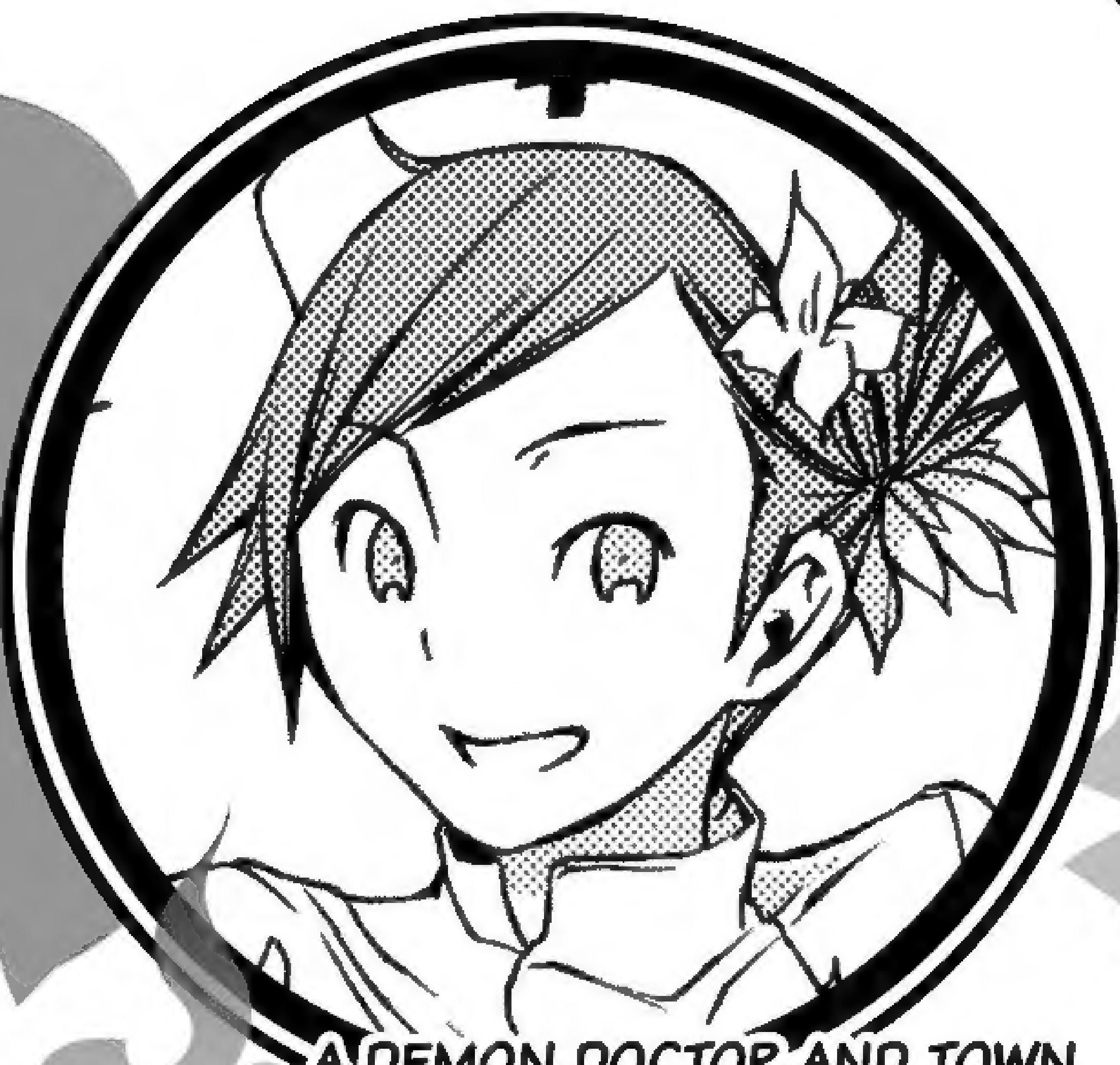


YAE SHINATSUHIKO

THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD. DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED OLD MAN.

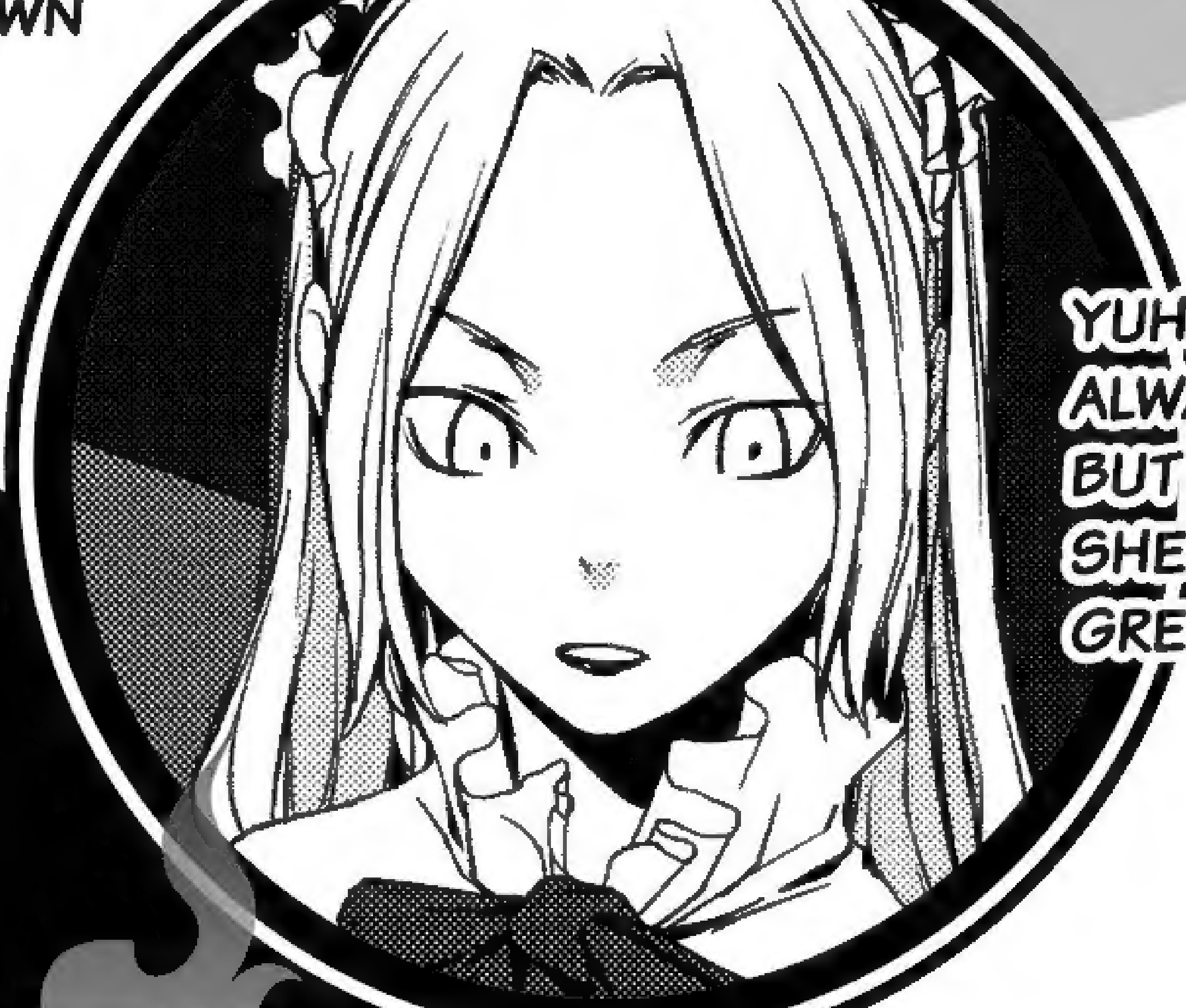


YUHI SHINATSUHIKO



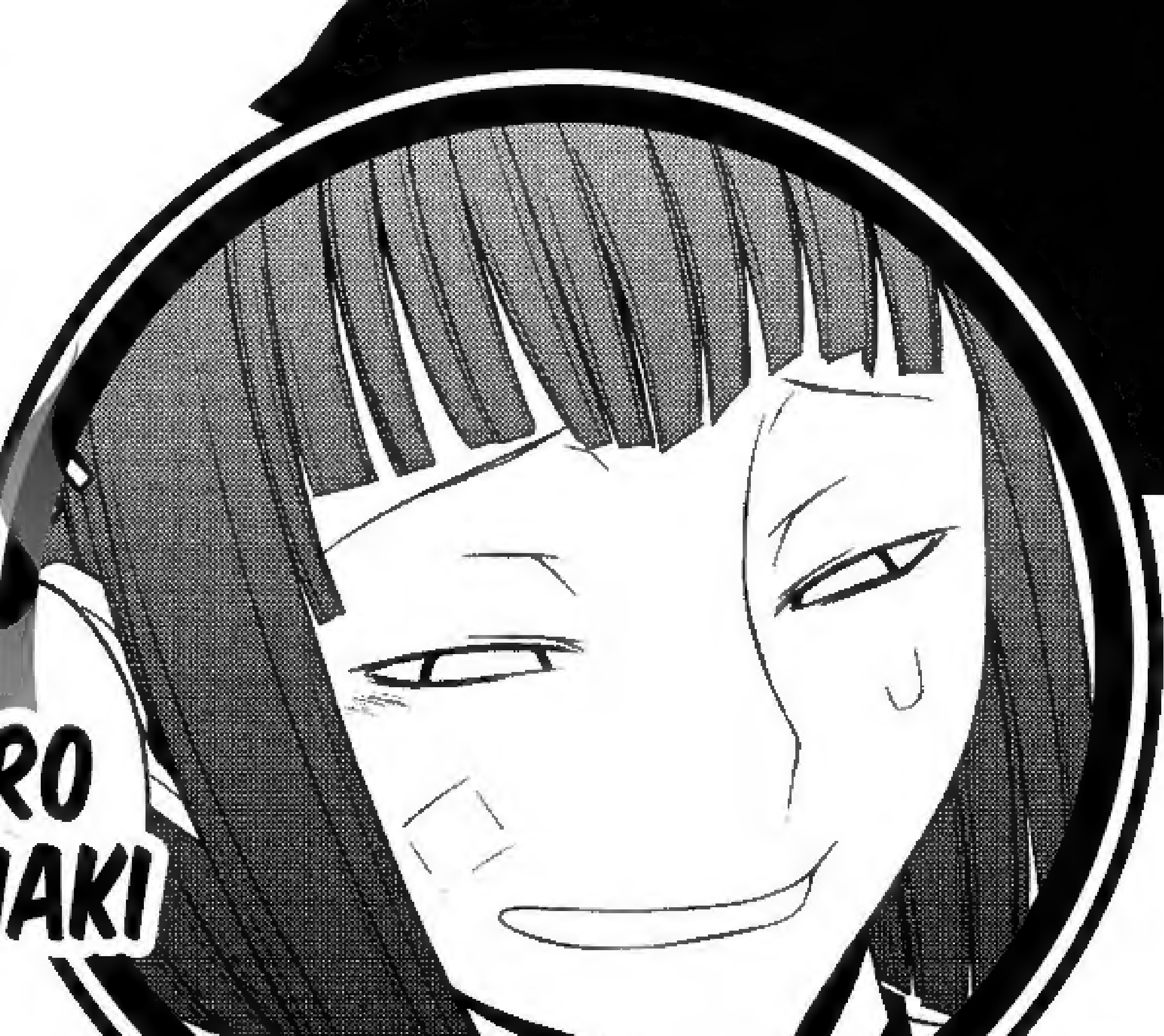
JURI

A DEMON DOCTOR AND TOWN ICON. SHE HAS BEEN ABSTAINING FROM SHOW BUSINESS LATELY.



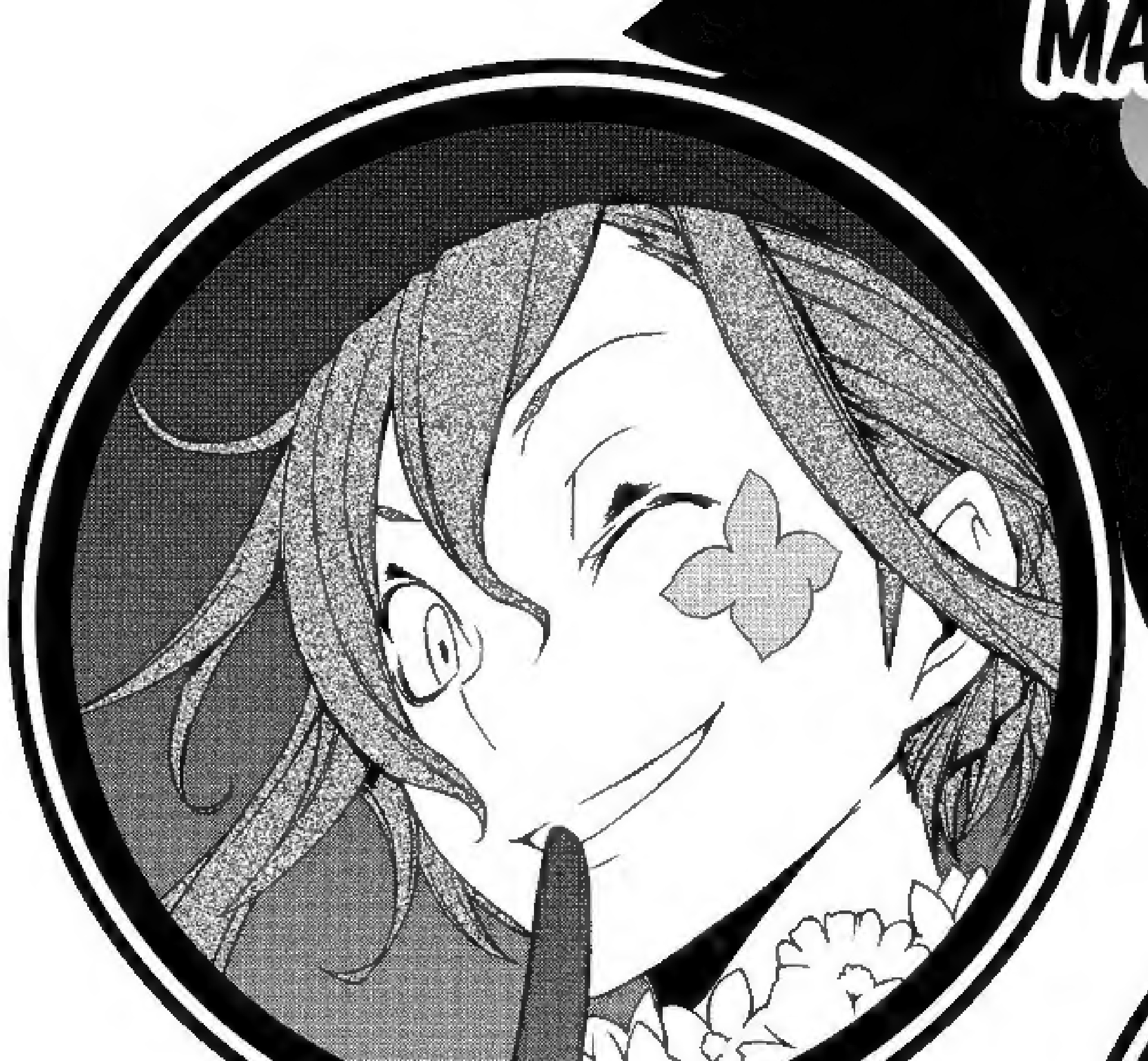
MARIABELL

YUHI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT. SHE IS ALSO JURI'S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.



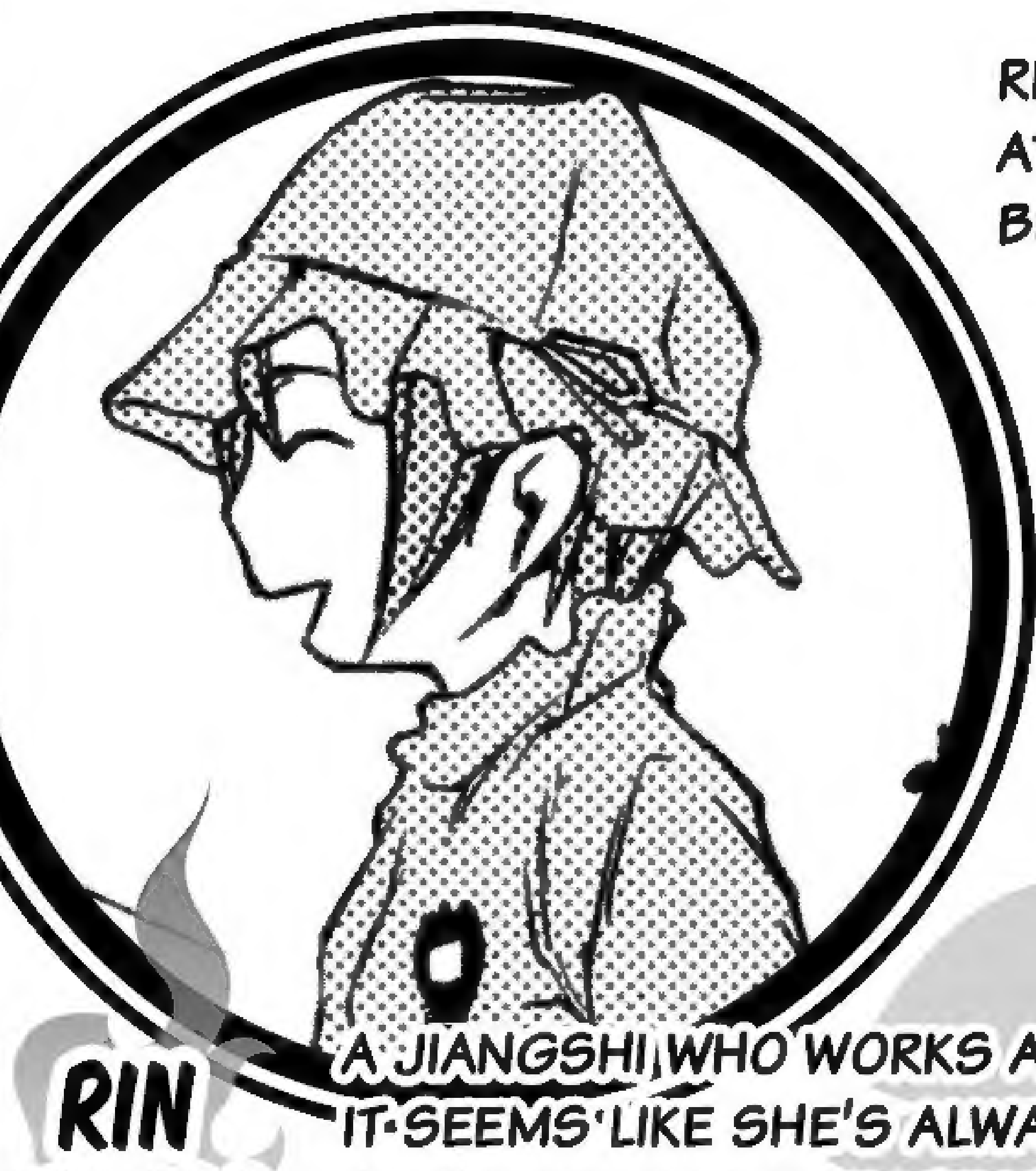
ZAKURO KURUMAKI

RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE ATTACKED SAKURASHIN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.



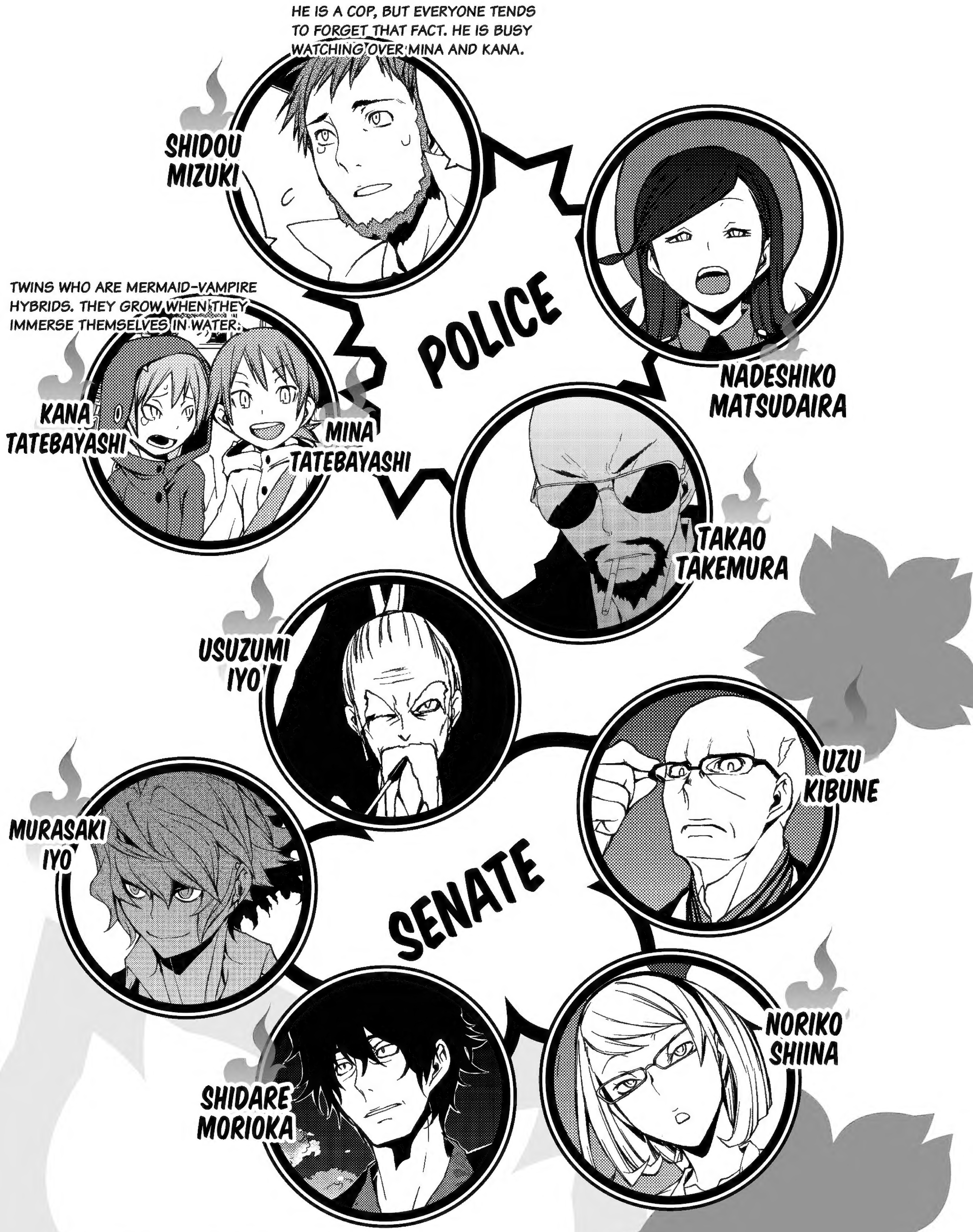
LILA

JURI'S YOUNGER SISTER. A WITCH/MAGICIAN WITH A SISTER COMPLEX.



RIN AZUMA

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT. IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS SLACKING OFF, BUT SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DILIGENT. WAS KIDNAPPED BUT RETURNED SAFELY.


HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.
SHIDOU MIZUKI
POLICE
NADESHIKO MATSUDAIRA
TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.
KANA TATEBAYASHI
MINA TATEBAYASHI
TAKAO TAKEMURA
USUZUMI IYO
UZU KIBUNE
SENATE
MURASAKI IYO
NORIKO SHIINA
SHIDARE MORIOKA

OUTLINE

JUST AS THE SENATE FINALLY STOPS BEING A MAJOR PAIN IN THE REAR, AN EVEN BIGGER NUISANCE, THE REPRESENTATIVE'S GRANDSON, MURASAKI, MAKES HIS ENTRANCE. MEANWHILE, ANOTHER ODDLY-CLAD DEMON HUNTER CUTIE JOINS THE FRAY.

YOZAKURA QUARTET

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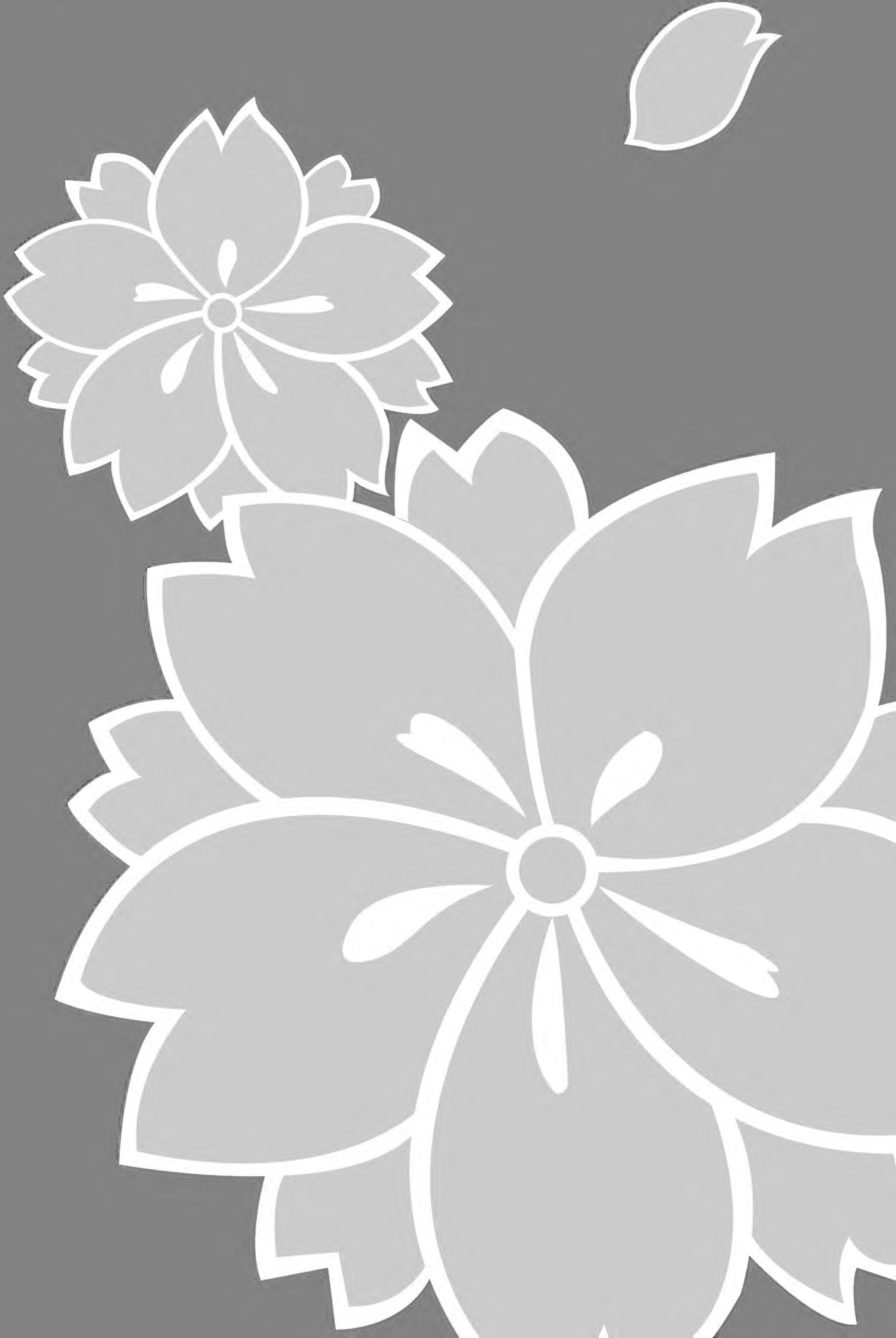


I DOUBT I EVEN NEED TO ASK...
...BUT I TAKE IT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS, MURASAKI?
YES, BUT OF COURSE...
...GRANDFATHER.
YOU'VE ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED TO JAPAN AND TAKEN OFFICE.
I SUGGEST YOU BE MORE CAUTIOUS WITH YOUR ACTIONS. ONLY AFTER FULLY ASSESSING THE SITUATION...
WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, GRANDFATHER?
IS IT NOT THE SENATE'S AMBITION TO SUPPRESS THE DEMONIC THREAT?
THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEAN...
THERE IS A PROCESS TO EVERYTHING.
PREPARATIONS MUST BE PROPERLY MADE TO...
PLEASE...
THAT ISN'T LIKE YOU, GRANDFATHER.
WAS IT NOT YOU WHO SAID A SOMEWHAT ASSERTIVE APPROACH IS UNAVOIDABLE?
...THAT I DID.
HOWEVER, GIVEN HOW THE SITUATION CURRENTLY CHANGES BY THE HOUR...

THAT ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL...
TEAR
ぽろ...
HE PICKS NOW TO CRY?
GRANDFATHER, YOU'VE COMPLETELY LOST YOUR CLAWS...
ENOUGH.
I WILL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME.
BUT CLEAR THINGS WITH THE HIGHER-UPS FIRST FROM NOW ON.
YOU'LL SET A BAD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.
ぱあっ
GRIN
YES, OF COURSE. I'LL TAKE THAT TO HEART.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
HEY.
WELL, IT AIN'T REALLY MY PLACE TO SAY THIS, BUT TRY NOT TO MESS WITH THE FOLKS IN THAT TOWN, WILL YA?
THEY'VE GOT A LOT ON THEIR PLATES AT THE MOMENT.
... UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BEHAVE FOR THE TIME BEING.
CAN I TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THAT?

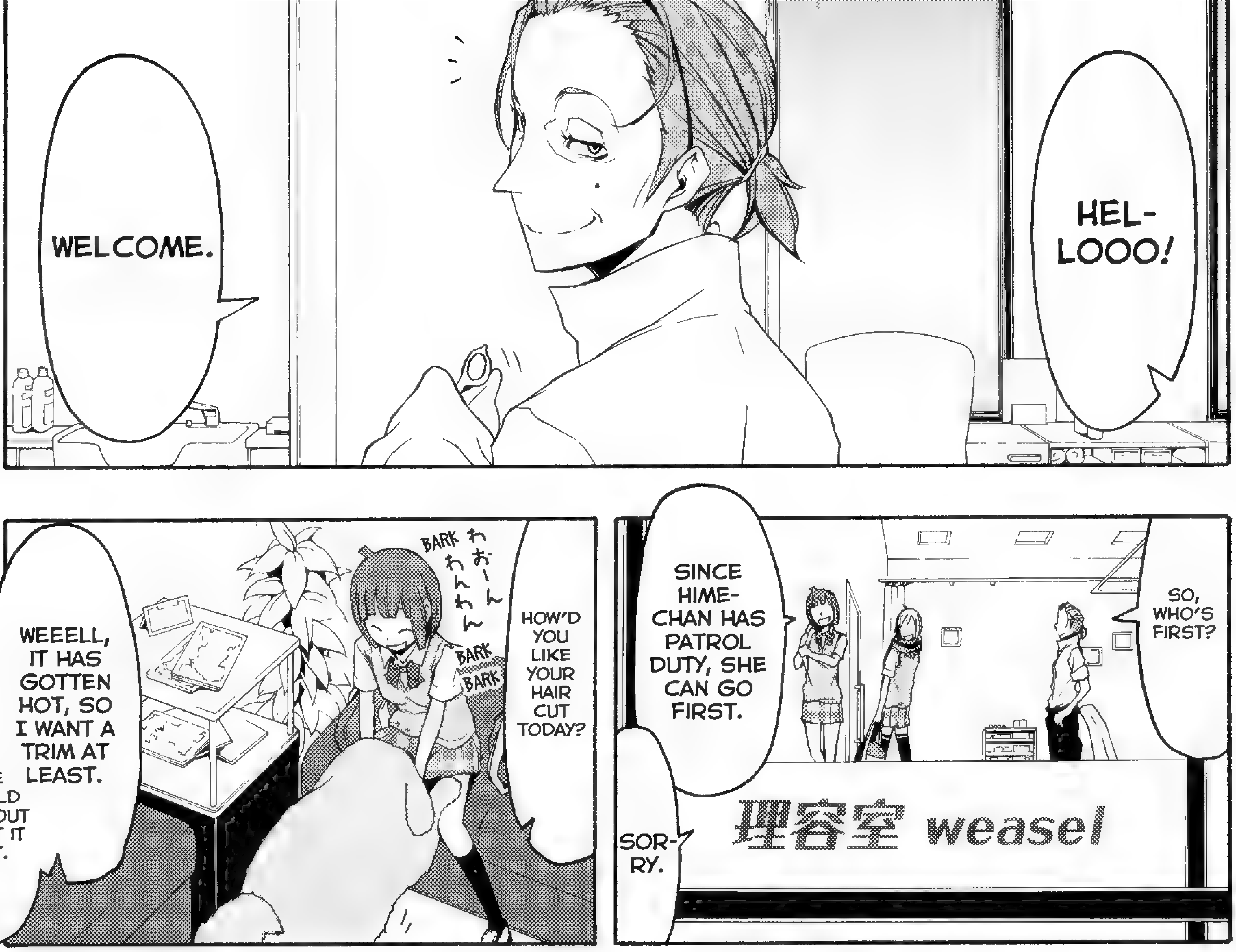
YES.
I SWEAR TO GOD.
WELL, THEN.
SHEESH.
I CAN'T READ THAT GUY AT ALL...

#69 ONI TALE (PART ONE)

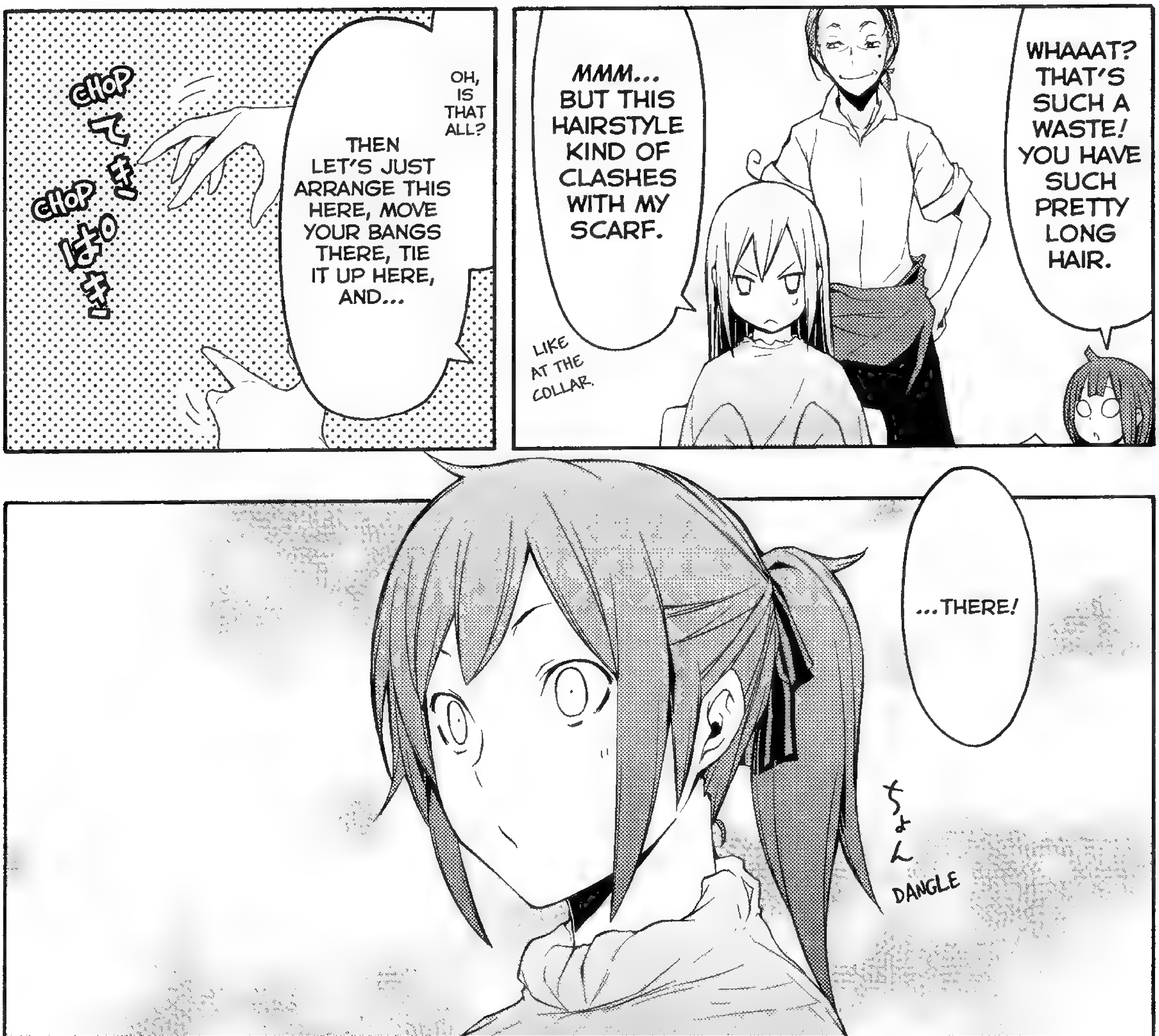
TAK
TAK
SHK
SHK
YOU'RE LATE.
IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO CALL ME.
I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING.
SHK
SHK
SHK
I'M IN CHARGE OF WHO AND WHEN TO SEND, REMEMBER?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HOLD UP MY END OF THE DEAL.
SHK

PERSONALLY, IF NEEDED.
BZT
I SEE. I MIGHT NOT NEED YOUR HELP.
AFTER ALL, JUST LOOK.
SHK
SHKK
SKRRT
SKRRT
MY "ONI SLAYER"...
...IS JUST ITCHING TO KILL.
SKRRT

HEY, HIME-CHAN.
WANT TO STOP BY THE SALON ON THE WAY HOME?
HMM?
か TIK か TIK か TIK
THE SALON, HUH? IT HAS GOTTEN HOT LATELY.
SURE. LET'S GO.
NOM もしもし NOM
LET'S GET IT DONE BEFORE I GO ON PATROL.
TIK か か TIK
OKAY. I'LL CALL THEM.
I NEED TO TEXT KYOSUKE, TOO.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE HIM START WITHOUT ME.
NOM もしもし NOM
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP EATING, ANYWAY?
IT'S STRANGE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I EAT, THE FOOD JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO END.
COULD THIS BE THE FABLED MAGIC LUNCH BOX? ...AH!
ギくっ TWITCH
ちょっとー!! HEEEY!
うおー ばれたー AAH! BUSTED!


HEL-LOOO!
WELCOME.
SO, WHO'S FIRST?
SINCE HIME-CHAN HAS PATROL DUTY, SHE CAN GO FIRST.
SORRY.
理容室 weasel
HOW'D YOU LIKE YOUR HAIR CUT TODAY?
わおーん わんわん
BARK BARK BARK
WEEELL, IT HAS GOTTEN HOT, SO I WANT A TRIM AT LEAST.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO ALL OUT AND CUT IT SHORT.

Sign: Barber Shop

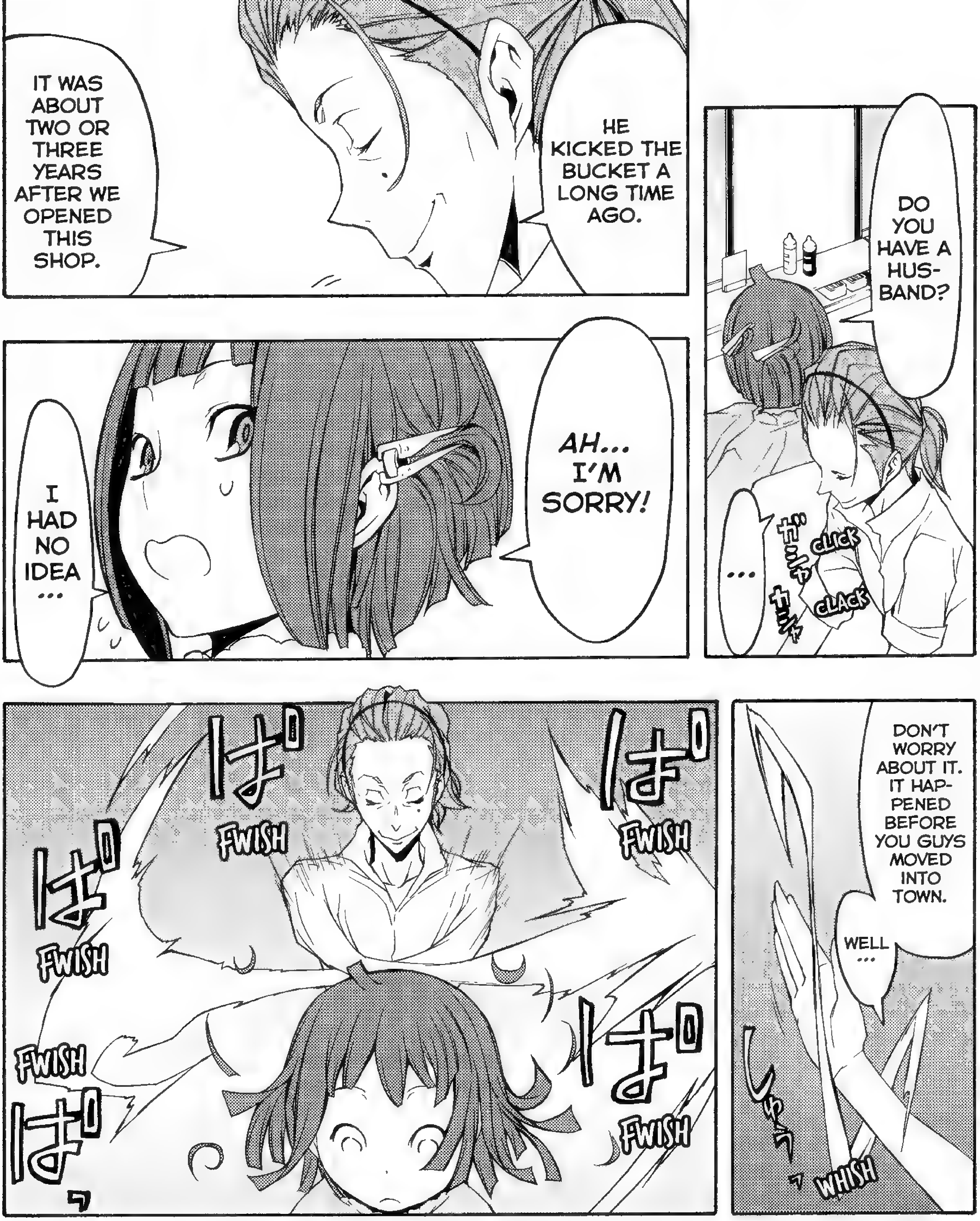

WHAAAT? THAT'S SUCH A WASTE! YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY LONG HAIR.
MMM... BUT THIS HAIRSTYLE KIND OF CLASHES WITH MY SCARF.
LIKE AT THE COLLAR.
OH, IS THAT ALL?
THEN LET'S JUST ARRANGE THIS HERE, MOVE YOUR BANGS THERE, TIE IT UP HERE, AND...
てき CHOP
はき CHOP
...THERE!
ちょん DANGLE

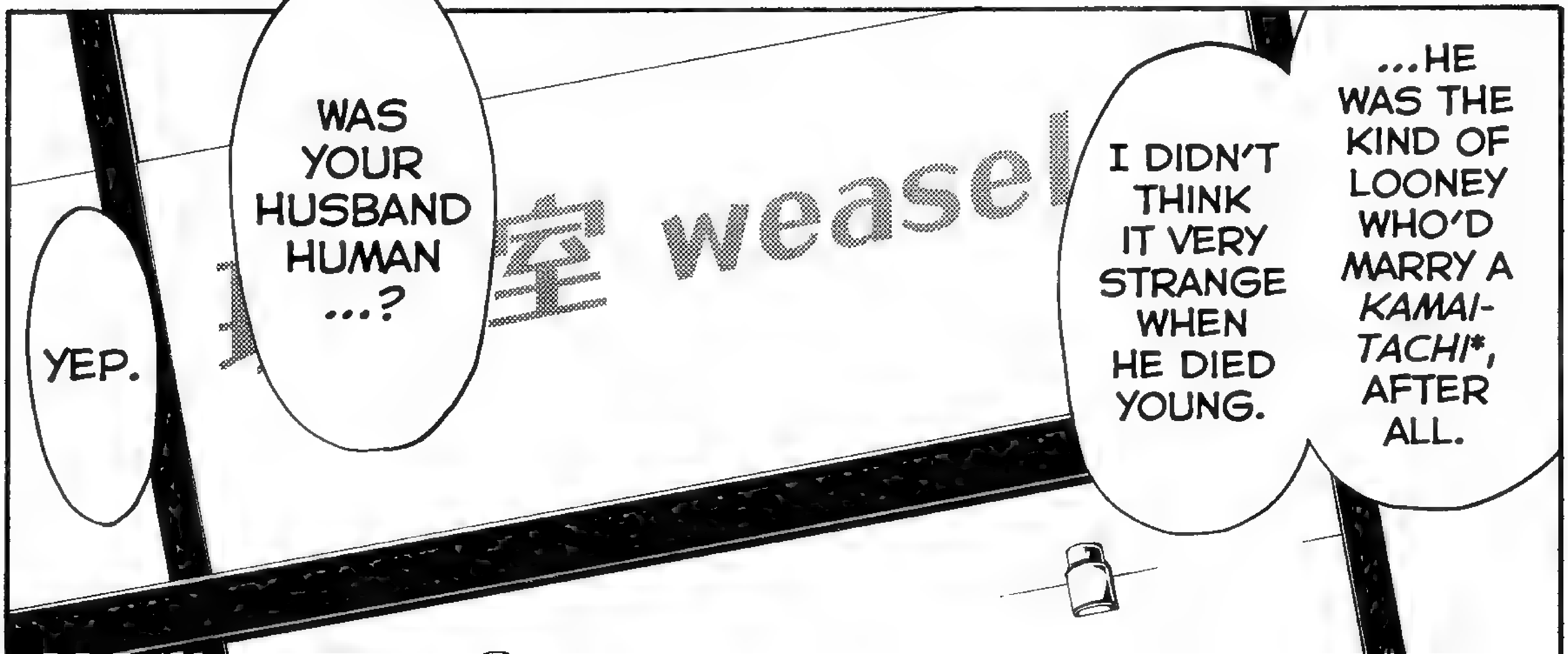
OH... OHH!
HEEEY, THAT'S PRETTY CUTE!
BRRR
ブルルル
...OOP. YOUR PHONE'S RINGING, HIME-CHAN.
IT'S FROM ONII-CHAN.
I'LL GET IT FROM YOUR BAG.
HUH?
I SENT HIM A TEXT SAYING TO START PATROLLING WITHOUT ME... HELLO?
BEEP
ZRT
M-MISS...
ZRT
ZRT
WHOA!
!
KYO-SUKE?!
I FAILED... MY APOLOGIES.
SHE'S... SHE'S HEADED FOR...
SNAP
FWIP
WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL RUSH THERE NOW!
IT CUT OFF... DAMN! I LET MY GUARD DOWN.
COULD IT BE A NEW DEMON HUNTER?
ダッ
DASH

WOOSH
BOOF
NWAH ?!
KO-HIME!
わおーん
RAWR
NICE CATCH, ONEE-SAMA!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU LOOK WELL!
JEEZ, YOU REALLY STARTLED ME. NO WONDER KYOSUKE WAS DEFEATED.
HE SAID HE'D CONTINUE WITH PATROL!
...SO? WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

LET'S GO! EVERYONE'S WAITING AT THE OFFICE!
TAP
た
H-HEY...!
た、
TAP
OH, WOW. IT'S MORINOCCHI AND ZUKA-CHAN.
SURE ARE A LOT OF GUESTS TODAY.
AH, GOOD AFTERNOON.
JURI'S FATHER IS HERE, TOO?
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE IN JAPAN?
JUST UNTIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO HERE, MORINOCCHI?
AND WHAT'S THIS?
SPECIFICATION DOCUMENTS.
THE SENATE SENT THEM OVER YESTERDAY...
...

A NEW TYPE OF ANTI-DEMON BARRIER?
WHAT IS THIS...?
シャキ
SHIK
シャキ
SHIK
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THIS BIT OF HAIR ALWAYS STICKS UP.
AND THE LENGTHS WON'T MATCH IF I CUT IT...
?
I'VE GIVEN UP ON FIXING IT...
ホロリ...
TEAR
YOU'VE ALWAYS RUN THIS SHOP BY YOURSELF, HAVEN'T YOU, MA'AM?
HMM? THAT'S RIGHT.


DO YOU HAVE A HUSBAND?
...
ガシャ CLICK
カシャ CLACK
HE KICKED THE BUCKET A LONG TIME AGO.
IT WAS ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS AFTER WE OPENED THIS SHOP.
AH... I'M SORRY!
I HAD NO IDEA...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU GUYS MOVED INTO TOWN.
WELL...
しゅっ WHISH
ぱ FWISH
ぱ FWISH
ぱ FWISH
ぱ FWISH
ぱっ FWISH


...HE WAS THE KIND OF LOONEY WHO'D MARRY A *KAMAITACHI**, AFTER ALL.
I DIDN'T THINK IT VERY STRANGE WHEN HE DIED YOUNG.
WAS YOUR HUSBAND HUMAN...?
YEP.
室 weasel

*A type of weasel demon that uses wind to cut victims.

AND SINCE HUMANS AND DEMONS CAN'T HAVE KIDS...
...I'M ALL ALONE NOW.
BUT THAT MAKES THINGS EASYGOING IN ITS OWN WAY.
...I SEE.
WHY THE LONG FACE?
I STILL HAVE THIS SHOP HE LEFT ME, AND I HAVE THE POOCH, SO I'M NOT LONELY AT ALL.
HE'S MORE WORK TO TAKE CARE OF THAN MY HUSBAND WAS.
Z Z Z
I SHEE...
HUMAN-DEMON COUPLES, HUH?
HO-HORAN'S OWNERS ARE THE SAME, BUT THEY ADOPTED TWO KIDS.
IS THERE ANYONE YOU HAVE YOUR EYE ON?
WELL, I'LL THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT IT...
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
WHAT ABOUT DEMONS AND GODS?
HUH?!

I'LL SAY THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, STAY AWAY FROM THAT RUNT!
DON'T TELL ME YOU MEAN THE DISTRICT MAYOR!
OH, NO, NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I'M NOT ASKING FOR ME...
BRING DING
ピロリロ
TOMOE-SAN?
ピ
BEEP
I FOUND A JAPANESE GIANT SALAMANDER IN THE GARDEN.
CUTE...
DOESN'T RESPOND RIGHT AWAY.
ピッ
BEEP
STILL DOESN'T.
STILL DOESN'T.

AHEM...
FINALLY DOES.
BEEP
BEEP
FOR SOME REASON...
...KYOSUKE SURE LOOKS HAPPY.
AKINA-CHIIIN!
HEEEY! OVER HEEERE!

HEY, IT'S THE THREE BEAUTIES IN THE FLESH.
OH, YOU.
HAVE A SEAT AND JOIN US, WON'T YOU?
I'M ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE ON AN ERRAND RIGHT NOW...
SIT!
IT'S ROUGH BEING ALONE WITH THESE TWO.
I NEED A NEUTRALIZER.
THAT'S SO MEAN, SHIINA-CHAN!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GATHERING, ANYHOW?
SOME KINDA COSPLAY CAFÉ?
MMM. CALL IT A SMALL CLASS REUNION.
OH, YEAH.
YOU ALL WENT TO COLLEGE TOGETHER.
WE MEET ONCE A MONTH TO SWAP INFO.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO MEET UP, BUT SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.
SPEAKING OF INFO,
YOUR FATHER VISITED THE SENATE YESTERDAY, JURI.
SO I HEARD.
ちゅー SLURP
HE SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN YOUR ARCHIVES.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CALL HIM SCHOLARLY OR A RESEARCH MANIAC.
WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED?

NOT AT ALL.
HE WAS VERY DREAMY.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
SWAPPING INFO, HUH?
THE SENATE.
THE TOWN DEMON DOCTOR.
AND THE POLICE.
WE'VE GOT THE PRO-HUMAN, PRO-DEMON, AND NEUTRAL PARTIES ALL EXCHANGING INFORMATION.
PRECISELY.
IS SHE PSYCHIC?
AND WHAT ABOUT THE OFFICE? RATHER,
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WHICH SIDE WILL YOU TAKE?
!
...
HOW ABOUT THE SENATE? WE HAVE THE SMARTEST GIRLS AROUND.
UHH...
THE POLICE ARE NICE! WE HAVE CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF JAPANESE FEMININITY!
DON'T FORGET THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION! YOU LIKE NURSE OUTFITS, DON'T YOU, AKINA-CHIN?
I... MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Y'KNOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ASKING ME TO PICK BETWEEN THE THREE OF YOU.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE ASKING!
WHY'D YOU GO AND MAKE IT HARDER TO ANSWER?! HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING, SHIINA-SAN?
BAM
RABBLE
わー
RABBLE
わー
HUH. AKINA SURE IS POPULAR.
DOESN'T IT SEEM MORE LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING?

A NEW TYPE OF ANTI-DEMON BARRIER?
WHY NOW...?
IT'S NOT JUST OUR TOWN. APPARENTLY, THAT WAS SENT TO ALL TOWNS NEIGHBORING SAKURA-SHIN.
LOOKING AT THE SPECS, ITS OUTPUT SEEMS REMARKABLY HIGHER THAN THE ONE RAISED DURING THE EDO PERIOD.
...
WHAT IS THE SENATE THINKING?
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST STARTING TO GET ALONG...
GRIP
ぎゅ…
IT CERTAINLY DOES SEEM STRANGE.
IT SEEMS ODDLY DIFFERENT FROM HOW THE REPRESENTATIVE USUALLY DOES THINGS.
BUT THE FACT STANDS THAT IT WAS STILL SENT TO US.
FLAP
ぱさ
SO, WHAT NOW?

WE MAY BE ROUGH AND TOUGH, BUT NEVER GRUFF!
WE'D NEVER USE SUCH A THING!
うわぁーっはっはっは
WAA HA HA HA HA HA
YOU KNOW SOME COOL QUOTES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT? WE WON'T USE IT, OF COURSE.
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
OH... I SEE.
ほっ
PHEW
HMM.
MIGHT MURASAKI-KUN HAVE DRAWN UP THIS PLAN?
MURASAKI?
AAH!
MURASAKI, THE REPRESENTATIVE'S GRANDSON. YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER HIM, SINCE HE WENT OVERSEAS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HIME-CHAN.
I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW OF HIM, PROFESSOR.
HE CAME TO RESEARCH UNDER ME FOR A TIME.
HIS QUIRKS SHOW IN HIS WORK.
BUT AREN'T YOU A BIOLOGIST, SIR? WOULDN'T HE WANT TO PURSUE PHYSICAL SCIENCE AS A SENATOR?
HE WAS A VERY STUDIOUS BOY.

HE STUDIED BIOLOGY IN TANDEM WITH PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THEM.
I ASSUME THAT, BY DOING SO, HE THOUGHT HE'D OBTAIN A STURDIER UNDERSTANDING OF "SCIENCE."
I SEE...
WHILE I ENDORSE THAT KIND OF THINKING...
...BIOLOGISTS TREAT DEMONS AS ORGANISMS,
WHILE PHYSICAL SCIENTISTS TREAT THEM AS A PHENOMENON.
THOUGH WE BOTH RESEARCH THE SAME DEMONS, IT COULD BE THAT OUR PATHS ARE DESTINED NEVER TO CROSS.
HMM.
THAT REMINDS ME. I HAD A LOOK AT THE SENATE'S RESIDENT DATA FOR THIS TOWN YESTERDAY.
AND I FOUND A VERY INTRIGUING ENTRY...
...REGARDING THOSE TWO ONI.
KYOSUKE AND TOUKA?

ONLY THEIR ORIGINS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DEMONS.
ORIGINS?
HOW THEY WERE BORN, I MEAN.
DEMONS ARE USUALLY BORN FROM TWO DEMON PARENTS.
BIOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS COMPLETELY NORMAL.
I UNDERSTAND.
BUT FOR THOSE TWO...
...THEY LACK AN ORGANISM WHICH ACTED AS THEIR "MOTHER."
...

HIME, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, DIDN'T YOU...
YEAH. I BROUGHT KYOSUKE AND TOUKA FROM OKAYAMA.
THEY DON'T HAVE A MOTHER? THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...
JAPAN IS HOME TO COUNTLESS MYTHS.
ONE SUCH BEING...
...THE LEGEND OF THE ONI.
THE LEGEND OF THE ONI...
MYTH...
DON'T TELL ME...
AS I EXPECTED.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, KOTOHA-CHAN?
KYOSUKE AND TOUKA WEREN'T BORN FROM A MOTHER...
BUT FROM THE LEGEND OF THE ONI PASSED DOWN OVER HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

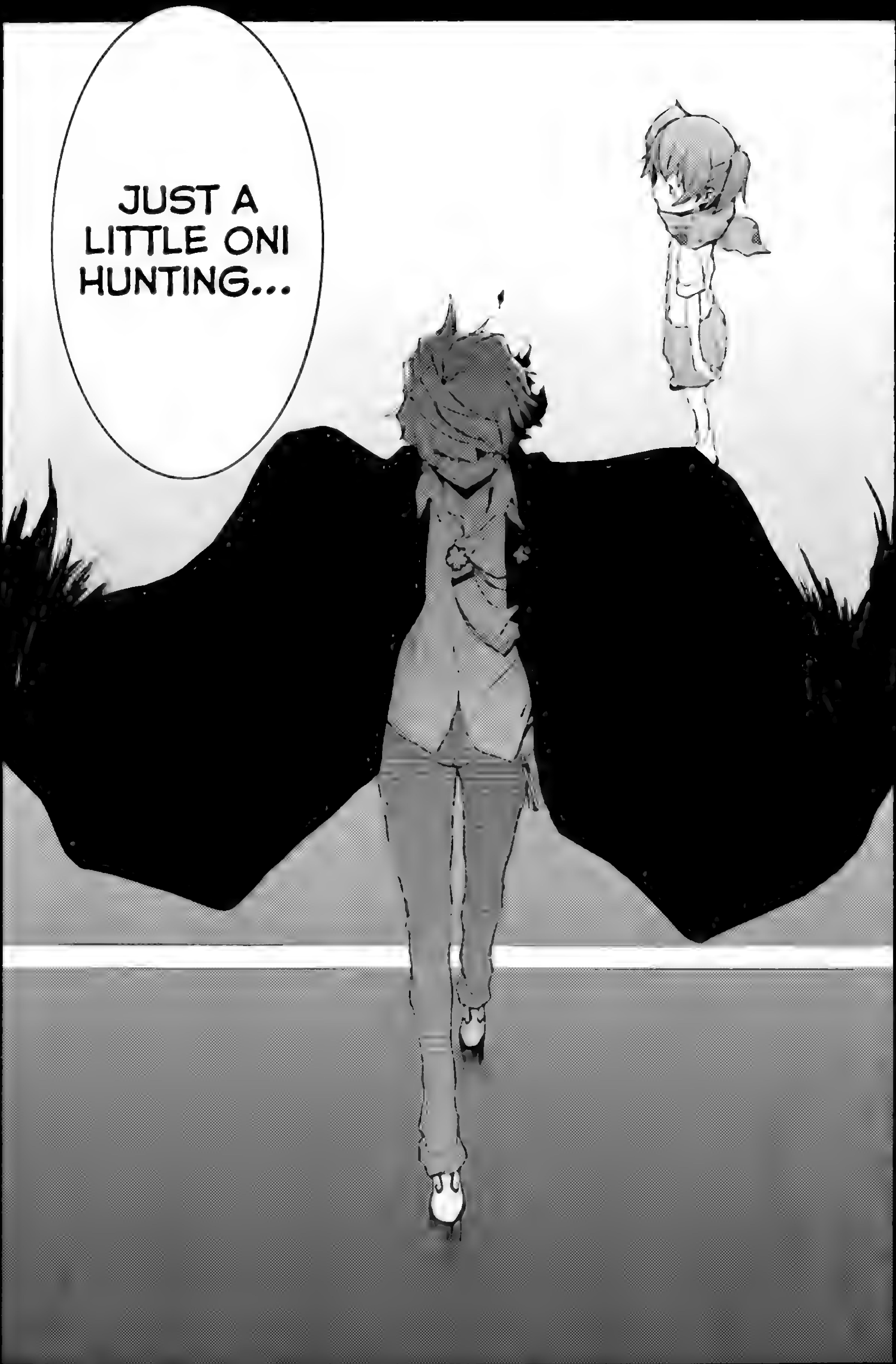
THE EXISTENCE KNOWN AS THE "ONI," AS TOLD BY THOUSANDS, NO, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.
THE *KOTODAMA* OF THAT VAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE TOOK SHAPE...AND GAVE BIRTH TO THOSE TWO.
PRECISELY.
BUT I THOUGHT ONLY YOU COULD USE *KOTODAMA*?
THOUGH MINISCULE, EVERYONE HAS SOME DEGREE OF *KOTODAMA* POWER.
SAYING A WISH OUT LOUD MAKES IT SEEM MORE LIKELY TO COME TRUE, RIGHT?
THE "MAKES IT SEEM" PART IS WHAT'S CRUCIAL.
IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING AT ALL FOR THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF MILLIONS TO REACH LUDICROUS LEVELS.
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...

...THEN WOULDN'T BEST-SELLING PIECES OF LITERATURE, TALES WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COPIES IN CIRCULATION...
...MANIFEST IN SOME WAY, TOO?
MMM. WELL, I MIGHT JUST FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE I'M A *KOTODAMA* USER,
BUT READING A STORY...
...IS MORE LIKE BASKING IN THE WARMTH OF A BONFIRE AN AUTHOR BURNED THEIR SOUL TO FUEL.
THAT'S HOW I THINK, ANYWAY.
SO I FEEL LIKE IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM LEGENDS.
AM I BEING TOO CRYPTIC?
MRR...
BEEP
BEEP
THAT TIME ALREADY?
I HAVE TO GET BACK FOR A MEETING. I'LL LEAVE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH YOU.
THEY MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
THANKS. I APPRECIATE IT.
SEE YOU AGAIN!

THAT BEING SAID...
ぱさ。 FLAP
THE ONI ORIGIN STORY I SPOKE OF? THAT ISN'T BIOLOGY, BUT FULL-FLEDGED PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY.
PEOPLE'S BELIEFS, OR PUT MORE CRUDELY, THEIR NEUROELECTRIC SIGNALS...
...ARE WHAT BROUGHT THOSE TWO INTO EXISTENCE.
I HIGHLY DOUBT SOMEONE LIKE *HIM*...
...WOULD SIMPLY LEAVE SUCH A FASCINATING SUBJECT UNATTENDED.

YEAH, YEAH.
YEP, THAT'S RIGHT.
I SENSE THAT A NEW DEMON HUNTER IS HEADED THIS WAY.
WELL, I FIGURED IT WAS ABOUT TIME ONE WOULD SHOW UP.
AT LEAST, I WISH THAT WAS ALL, BRO.
SOMETHING MUUUCH MORE TROUBLESOME IS APPROACHING.
UH-HUH. YEP, YEP...
AH HA HA! YEAH? EVEN THOUGH HE SAID HE SWORE TO GOD?

たっ TAP
たっ TAP
WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. AFTER ALL, THAT BOY...
わっ OOF!
どしんっ BUMP
...DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD IN THE SLIGHTEST.
PARDON ME!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE. DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS IN TOWN?
OOPSIE.
...YEAH.
IT'S NOTHING MAJOR, THOUGH.


JUST A LITTLE ONI HUNTING...

69TH NIGHT ONI TALE (PART ONE) END

BUT IT'S NOT TIME FOR SETSUBUN* YET!

---

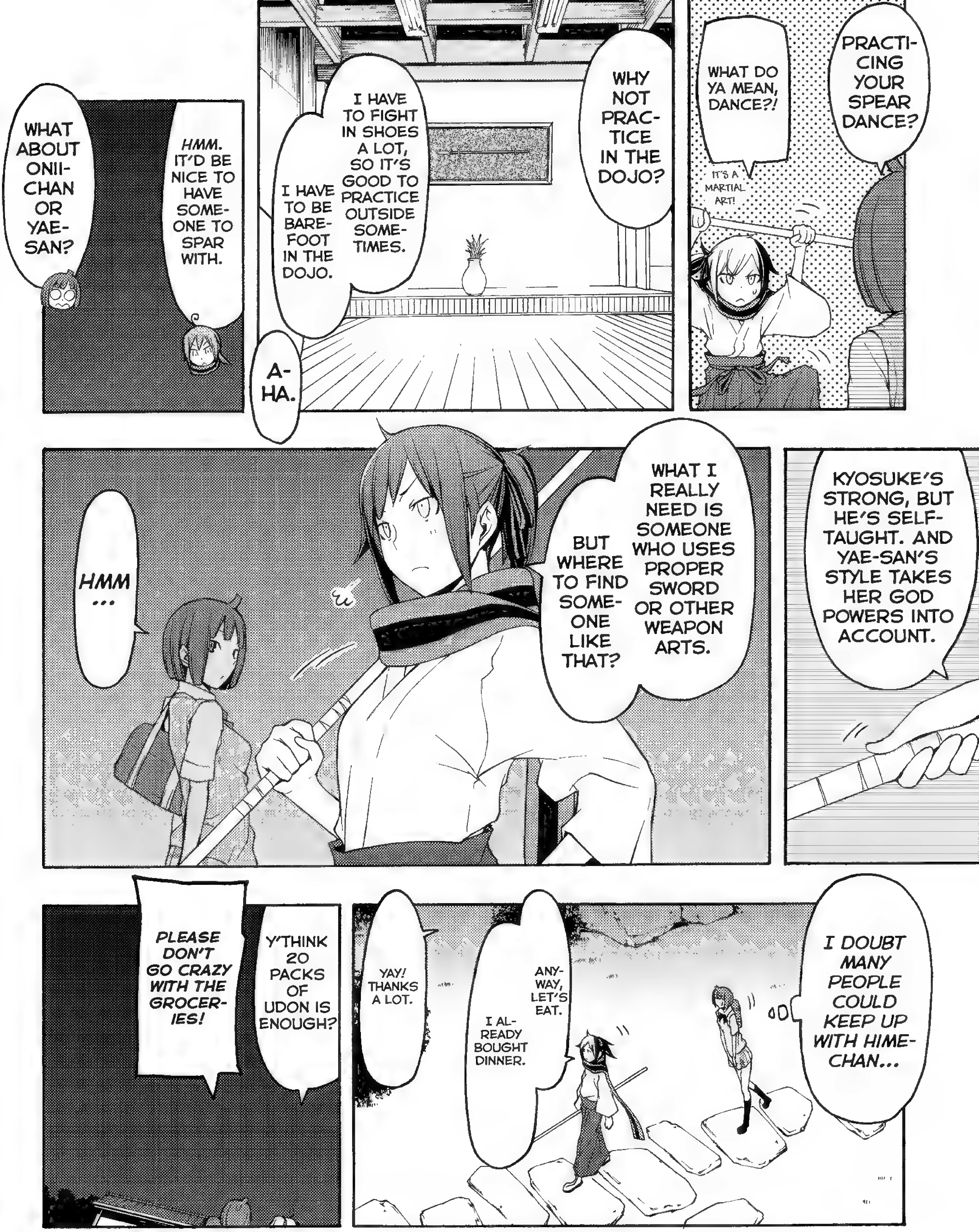
*A festival at the end of winter in which beans are thrown to ward off oni from homes.

TOUKA-CHAAAN! READ US A STORY!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. HOLD YOUR HORSES.
SORRY TO ASK YOU TO HELP, TOUKA. ONE OF THE TEACHERS HAD TO LEAVE EARLY...
IT'S NO TROUBLE. I'M GLAD I HAPPENED TO PASS BY.
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. THE KIDS ADORE YOU.
YEAH, *HEH HEH*...
ちら PEEK
ALL BOYS.
ALL GIRLS.
...
AM I NOT POPULAR WITH THE BOYS BECAUSE I'M NOT FEMININE ENOUGH?
ぬむむ MRR GRR
TOUKA-CHAAAN! READ US A STORY!
OKAY, OKAY.

あかおにと
あおおに
ONI...
WHAT'S WRONG, TOUKA-CHAN?
OH, NOTHING.
AAH, IT'S A STORY ABOUT ONI.
THE ONI IN THE PICTURES SCARE ME, BUT YOU'RE ISN'T SCARY AT ALL, TOUKA-CHAN!
RIGHT? SHE'S SO NICE!
THANKS.
I LOVE YOU, TOUKA-CHAN!
ME, TOO!
CLAMBER のし
CLAMBER のし
TH-THANKS...
ME, THREE!
HEY, I DO, TOO!
CLAMBER のし
CLAMBER のし
AAAGH! I CAN'T BREATHE!
CLAMBER のし
T-TOUKA-CHAN'S GETTING MOBBED!
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY SINCE THEY'RE GIRLS?
IT'S NOT OKAY!
BUT THE FACT THAT NO ONE'S AFRAID OF ME, DESPITE ME BEING AN ONI...
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE OFF.

Book: Red Oni, Blue Oni

...MAKES ME KINDA HAPPY.
WELL, THEN. TAKE CARE.
YOU, TOO! HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
YAH!
HAH!
FWOO
I'M HOME, HIME-CHAN.
WEL-COME BACK.


PRACTICING YOUR SPEAR DANCE?
WHAT DO YA MEAN, DANCE?!
IT'S A MARTIAL ART!
WHY NOT PRACTICE IN THE DOJO?
I HAVE TO FIGHT IN SHOES A LOT, SO IT'S GOOD TO PRACTICE OUTSIDE SOMETIMES.
I HAVE TO BE BAREFOOT IN THE DOJO.
A-HA.
HMM. IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO SPAR WITH.
WHAT ABOUT ONII-CHAN OR YAE-SAN?
KYOSUKE'S STRONG, BUT HE'S SELF-TAUGHT. AND YAE-SAN'S STYLE TAKES HER GOD POWERS INTO ACCOUNT.
WHAT I REALLY NEED IS SOMEONE WHO USES PROPER SWORD OR OTHER WEAPON ARTS.
BUT WHERE TO FIND SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
HMM...
I DOUBT MANY PEOPLE COULD KEEP UP WITH HIME-CHAN...
ANYWAY, LET'S EAT.
I ALREADY BOUGHT DINNER.
YAY! THANKS A LOT.
Y'THINK 20 PACKS OF UDON IS ENOUGH?
PLEASE DON'T GO CRAZY WITH THE GROCERIES!

#70 ONI TALE (PART TWO)

カリ SKRIT
カリ… SKRIT
ふぅ PHEW
バタン THUD
No. 45
ガラッ SLIDE
ONII-CHAAAN!
ギクッ TWITCH
HM? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING? A JOURNAL?
N-NO. IT'S NOTHING!
ガッチャン KER-CHAK
NOTHING AT ALL!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT *THAT* BADLY.

YOU DON'T?
WHY NOT?! BE MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR BIG BROTHER!
C'MON, TOUKA!
WHA?! GROSS! WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
UGH... SO, WHY WERE YOU CRYING?
OH, RIGHT.
AAH... THIS CALMS ME DOWN.
...
I SENT ALL MY BODY PILLOWS OUT TO BE DRY CLEANED.
AAH. GOOD NIGHT.
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP WITH HIME?
MMM. HIME-CHAN TOSSES IN HER SLEEP...
WE ALWAYS USED TO SLEEP TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE...
すう…
SNORE

SNORE
フガー…
…
SNORE
ふがー…
NO. 5

ブルルル
BRRR
ビクッ
JUMP
ビクッ
JUMP
WHAT THE?
IT'S FROM MIDORIKO-CHAN.
I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS AT THIS HOUR...
ピッ
BEEP
HEL-LO? UH-HUH. HUH? YEAH, OKAY.
SHE SAYS SHE REALLY NEEDS TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING. I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.
YOU'RE GOING OUT THIS LATE?
I'M GOING *BECAUSE* IT'S THIS LATE.
MIDORIKO-CHAN ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO BOTHERS PEOPLE FOR NOTHING. SHE MUST REALLY BE IN TROUBLE.
ALL RIGHT... I'LL GO WITH YOU.
ばたばた
PAT PIT

GULP GULP
ゴクゴク
ぺろり
HEYA.
WHAT'S UP, YOU TWO?
YOU'RE GOING OUT AT THIS HOUR?
JUST NOW...
...I SEE. THAT IS ALARMING.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO WITH TOUKA, SO YOU GO BACK TO BED, KYOSUKE.
WHAT? NO, I'M GOING, TOO.
YOU'RE TIRED FROM COVERING MY SHARE OF PATROL, RIGHT?
AND APPARENTLY, AKINA AND THE OTHERS ARE STAYING LATE SINCE THERE WERE SOME DELAYS AT THE OFFICE.
SO GET SOME SLEEP AND GO GIVE THEM A HAND EARLY IN THE MORNING, WILL YOU?
'KAY!
BUT...
JEEZ...
IF MIDORIKO HAS A GIRLS-ONLY PROBLEM, THEN SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU'RE THERE, NOW WILL SHE?
TAKE A HINT!
MRR...
GOOD POINT.

カバ CLICK
ちん
YAAAWN. THAT DOES IT FOR OVERTIME.
ごき CRACK
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR TAKING SO LONG ON THAT ERRAND.
SHIINA-SAN'S DRUNKEN RANTS SOUND SCAAARY.
MY BAD, MY BAD.
I'M GLAD WE MANAGED TO GET EVERYTHING DONE TODAY, THOUGH.
I EXPECT TO BE PAID FOR ALL THIS OVERTIME...
WHAT'S UP?
HMM...
BE QUIET FOR A BIT.

MIDORIKO ASKED YOU TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER? SHE'S NOT EVEN HERE.
HANG ON A SEC.
BEEP
プルル・・・
BRRR
ガチャ
CLACK
HELLO?
HELLO? MIDORIKO-CHAN? I'M HERE, BUT...
OH, REALLY?
AH, I SEE YOU.
COME CLOSER TO THE BRIDGE.
OVER THERE?
?
IT SURE IS DARK...
HURRY, HURRY.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS WAY...

GOOD EVENING.
AND WELCOME.
!

HEY, DIDN'T YOU SAY IT WAS MIDORIKO?!
HUH?! BUT... IT WAS HER NUMBER AND HER VOICE.
THAT MUCH IS EASY TO FAKE...
...WITH THE POWER OF SCIENCE.
SCIENCE?
THE SENATE?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...
I'M THE REPRESENTATIVE'S GRANDSON...
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
!

ROOSTER
酉
MONKEY
申
...MURA-SAKI IYO.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE,
SO LET'S GET ALONG, OKAY?

ぱち
SNAP
むくっ
SIT
...
カチッ
CLICK
...I'M GLAD MISS AND TOUKA ARE OUT RIGHT NOW.
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, DEMON HUNTER?

THANK GOODNESS.
I SMELLED TWO ONI AND JUST COULDN'T DECIDE WHICH TO FOLLOW...
...BUT YOU LOOK MUCH TASTIER.

ONI... SHE'S AFTER ME AND TOUKA?
GOOD THING SHE CAME FOR ME, THEN.
すたっ TMP
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT PLEASE LEAVE.
IF YOU DON'T ...
MMM. SMELLS YUMMY...

CLANG
!
SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!
HUB
MAN, KOTOHA'S HALF-DEMON SENSES ARE CRAZY!
WAY TO GO!
BUB
SO SHE'S THE NEW DEMON HUNTER... WHY'S SHE WEARING A SWIMSUIT?
HOW CUTE.
...

IT'S EASIER TO WASH OFF...
...THE BLOOD SPLATTER.
AHA! MAKES SENSE.
SMART!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR PICTURES!
パシャ SNAP
WELL, THREE ON ONE SHOULD MAKE THIS EASY.
LET'S DO IT.
OH, I'M INCLUDED?
すたっ TMP
NO, WAIT.
SHE'S ...
ガッ GRAB
AND HER KATANA IS ALL CHIPPED.
SHE PROBABLY CAN'T CUT ANYTHING WITH THAT.
...
ギッ SHK
ギッ SHK
LONG-SWORDS "PIERCE."
ギ SHK
ギ SHK
ギ SHK
KATANAS "SLICE."
SHK ギ

BUT THIS ONI SLAYER...
..."SAWS."
ZRRRR

SHE'S FAST ...

FWOO
とんっ..
TMP
AH...
AKI-NA!

AGH...
ゴロッ
ROLL
GAAAH...
BUT...
...I'M STILL WHOLE?!
SHE STRUCK WITH THE BACK?
THIS ONI SLAYER DOESN'T WANT TO CUT HUMANS.
ザクッ
SHNK
IT ONLY WANTS TO SLAY ONI.
SO PLEASE...
...DON'T GET IN THE WAY.
I'M BEGGING YOU.
LET ME SLAY THE ONI...
ぺたん
SLUMP
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.
THAT ASIDE, SHE'S CRAZY FAST. WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
?
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO WAIT.
SHE'S NOT LIKE ALL THE OTHER HALF-DEMONS WE'VE MET.

IT'S AS IF THE CORE OF WHAT MAKES HER A HALF-DEMON...
...IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION.
CHIK
I AM THE 13TH MASTER OF THE KUJOUIN SCHOOL OF IAIJUTSU*.
IRUKA KUJOUIN,
AT YOUR SERVICE.

*Sword techniques involving drawing from the sheath.

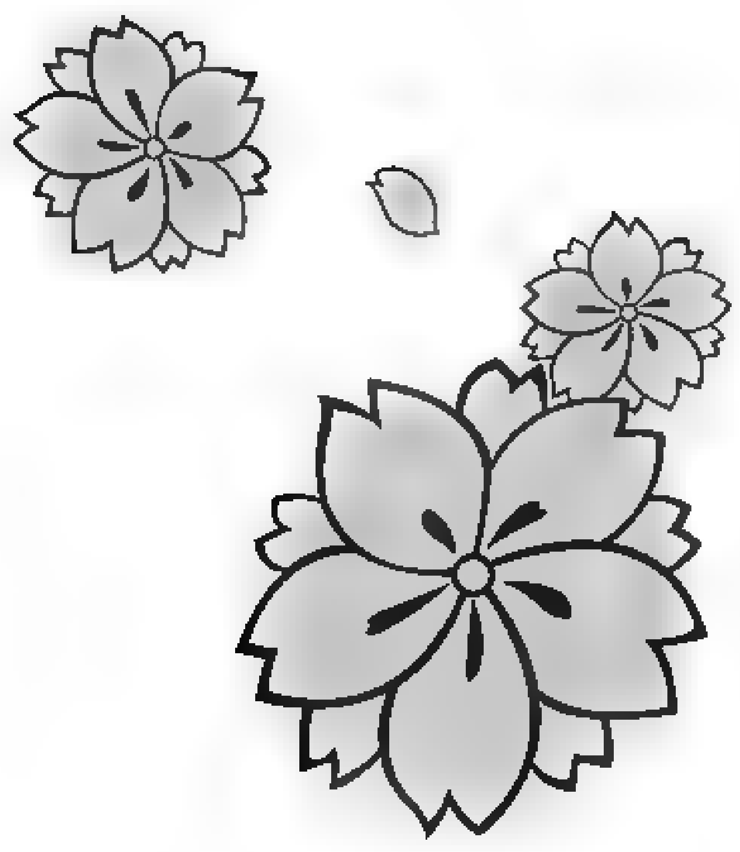
BOOM
!
AH, JEEZ... WHAT NOW?!
TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK!
AO! ASSESS THE SITUATION!
ROGER!
ぴょん
SPRING
しゅたっ
PLOP
HEH HEH HEH.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

WVV
GIMME A BREAK.
LIKE I'D EVER FORGET...!
WVV
WVV
WVV
THIS IS AN ANTI-DEMON BARRIER!
封
EXCELLENT OBSERVATION.

AO!
JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE!
とん THUD
WOW...
ぺたん SLUMP
WHAT A PRETTY LIGHT...
TUNING!
FLASH !!

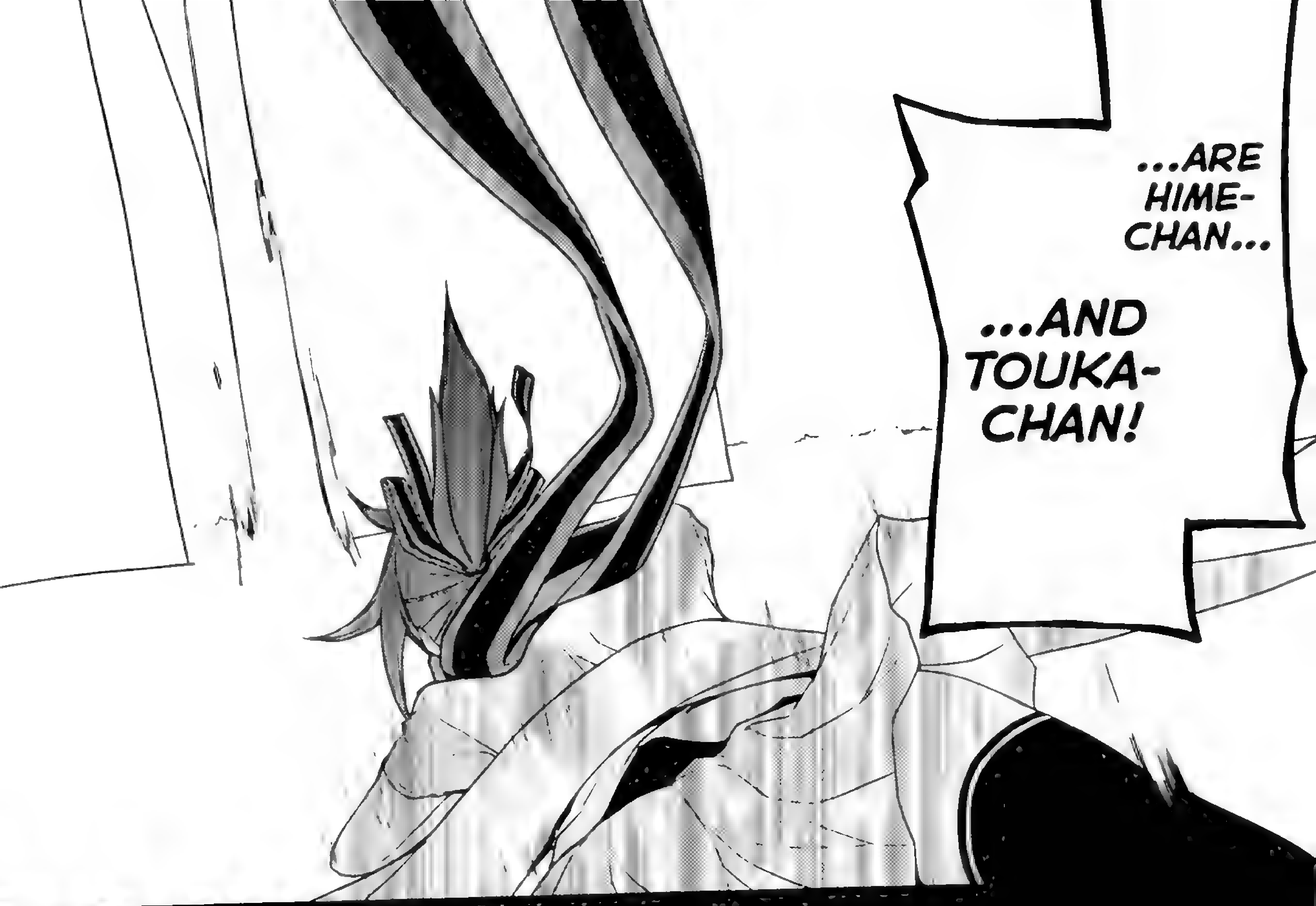
GOTCHA! NICE ONE, AKINA!
THAT'S THAT!
...?!
OW... IT HURTS.
IT TINGLES, AND STINGS, BUT...
...IT HURTS SO GOOD. MMM. MORE.
THAT FEELS AMAZING. GIVE IT TO ME MORE...

WHAT THE?! KOTOHA?!
ぼっ
FWIP
SHE'S A HALF-DEMON! I'M POSITIVE!
THEN WHY THE HELL...
...WON'T TUNING WORK?!
NIGHT ON TAIL (PART
END

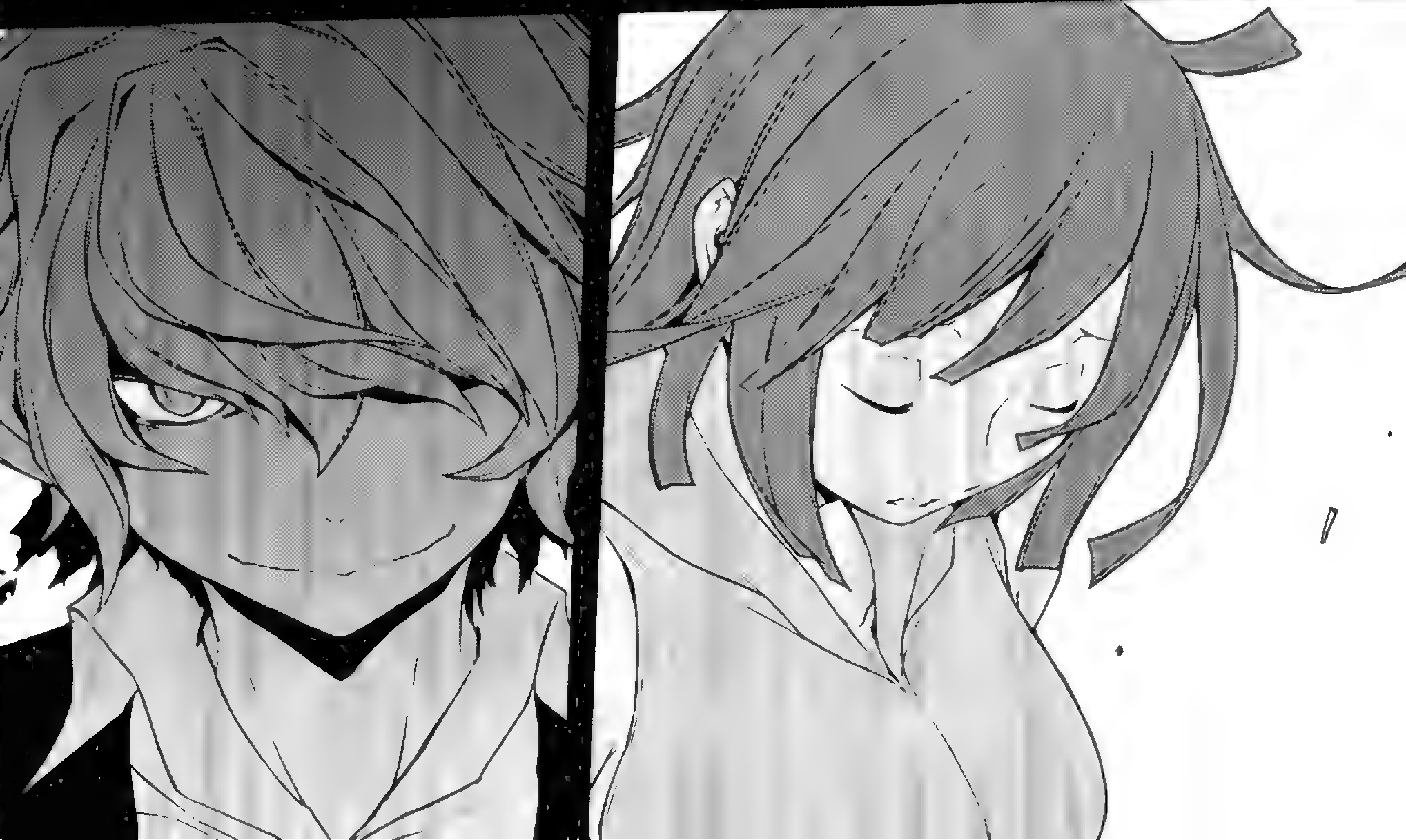


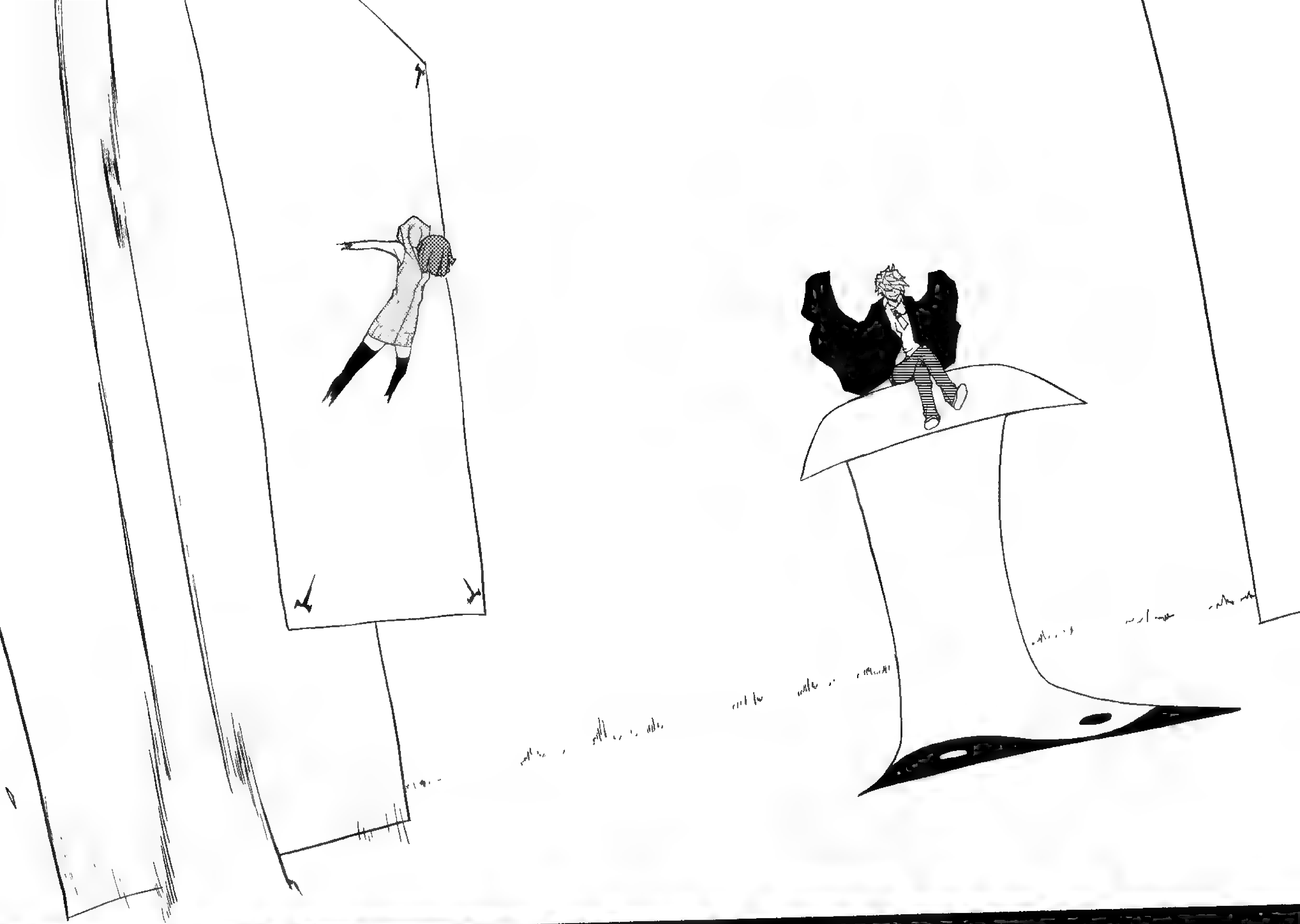
YOZAKURA QUARTET 13

THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND! SHE'S A HALF-DEMON!
THEN WHY THE HELL...
...WON'T TUNING WORK?!
AKINA-SAAAN!
D'AHH! THIS IS SO CHAOTIC!
THAT LIGHT IS PROBABLY A LOCALIZED ANTI-DEMON BARRIER!
AND INSIDE THAT LIGHT...

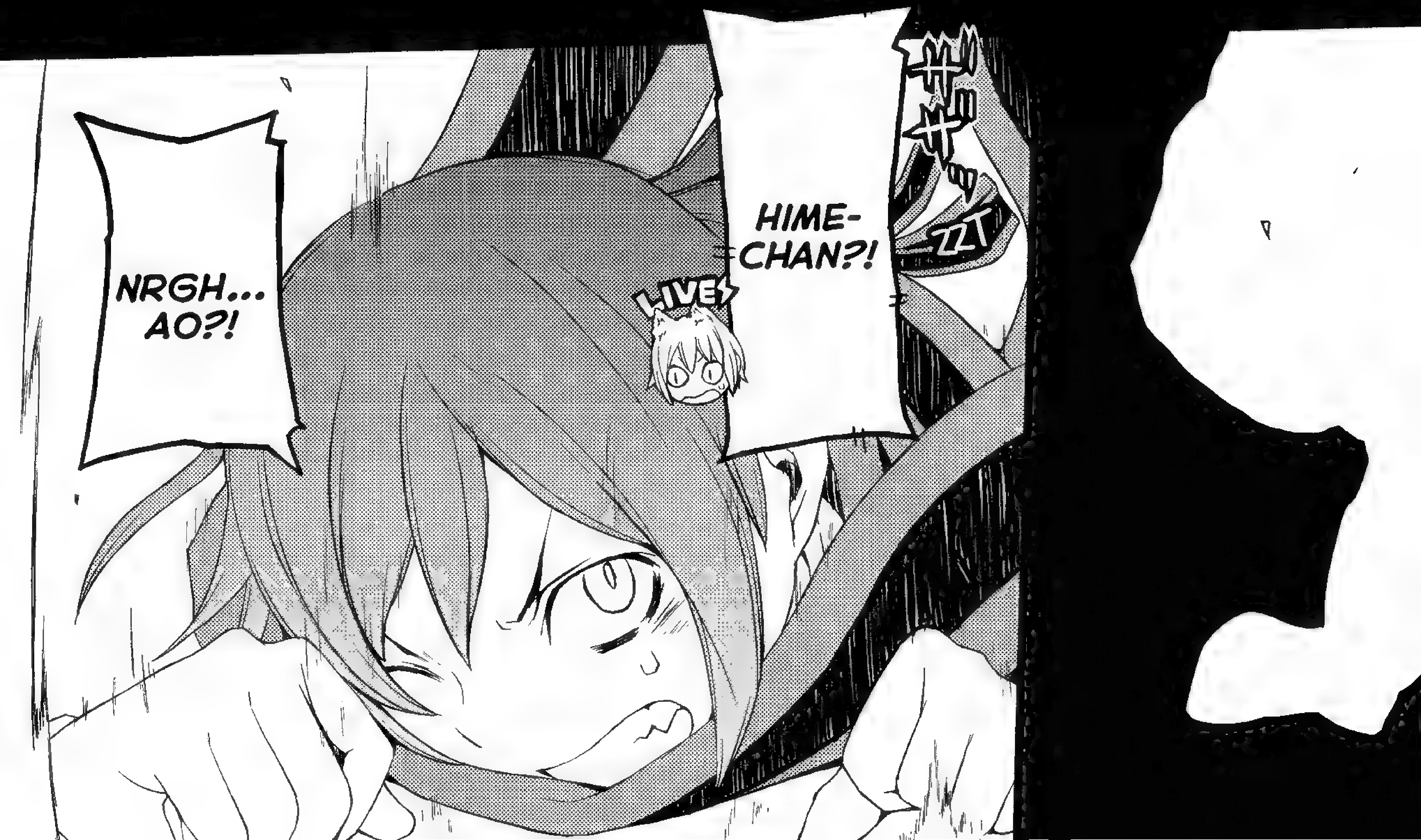

...ARE HIME-CHAN...
...AND TOUKA-CHAN!

ONI TALE (PART THREE)

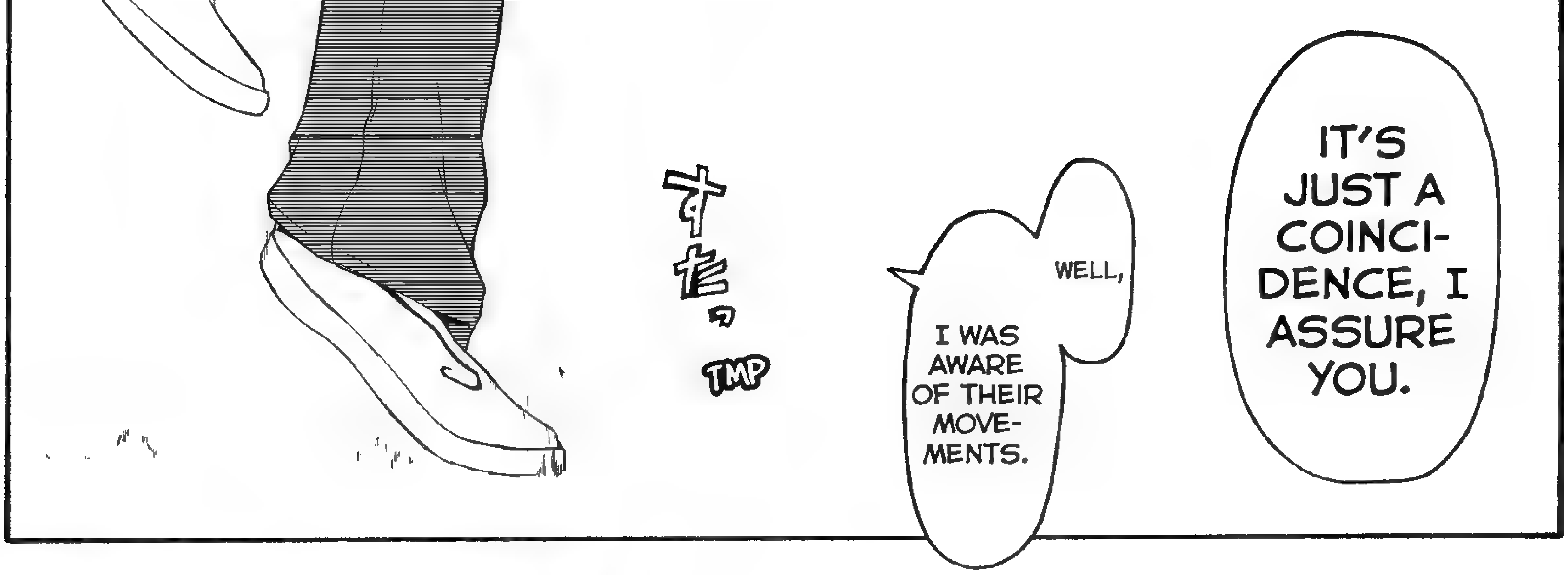


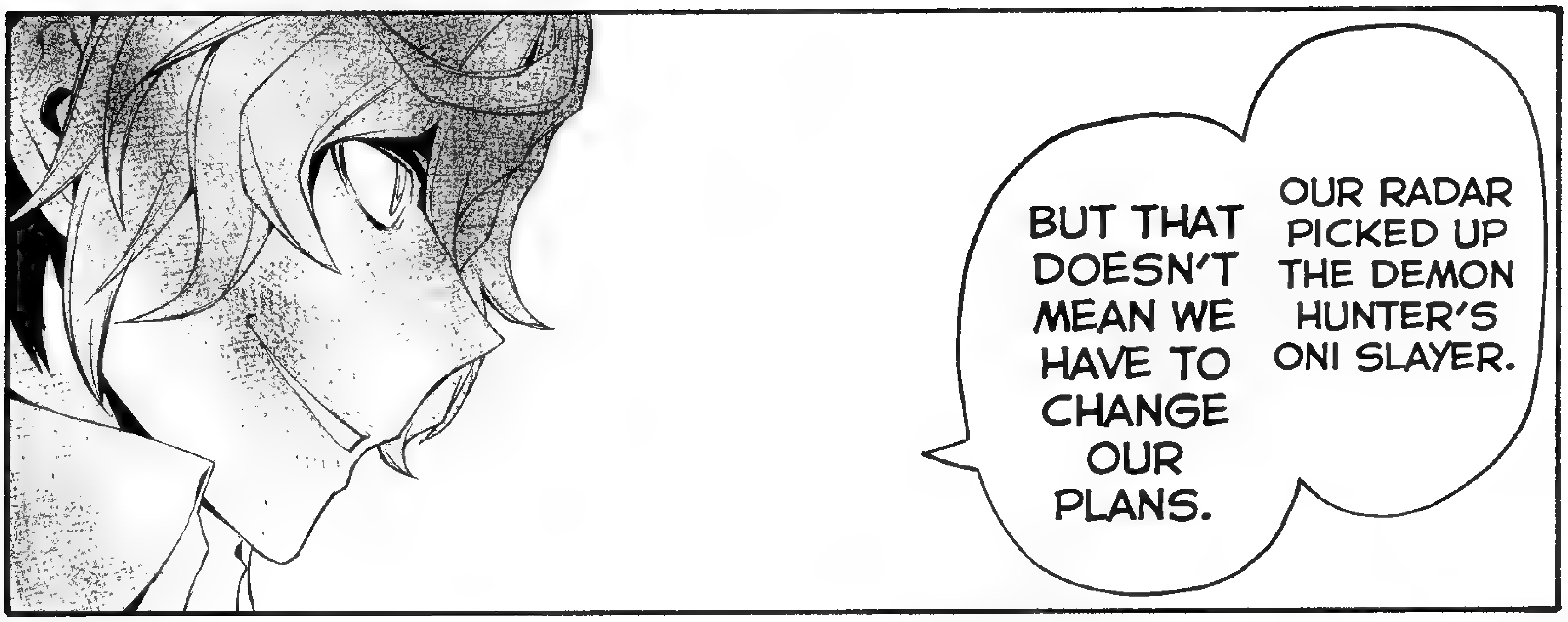


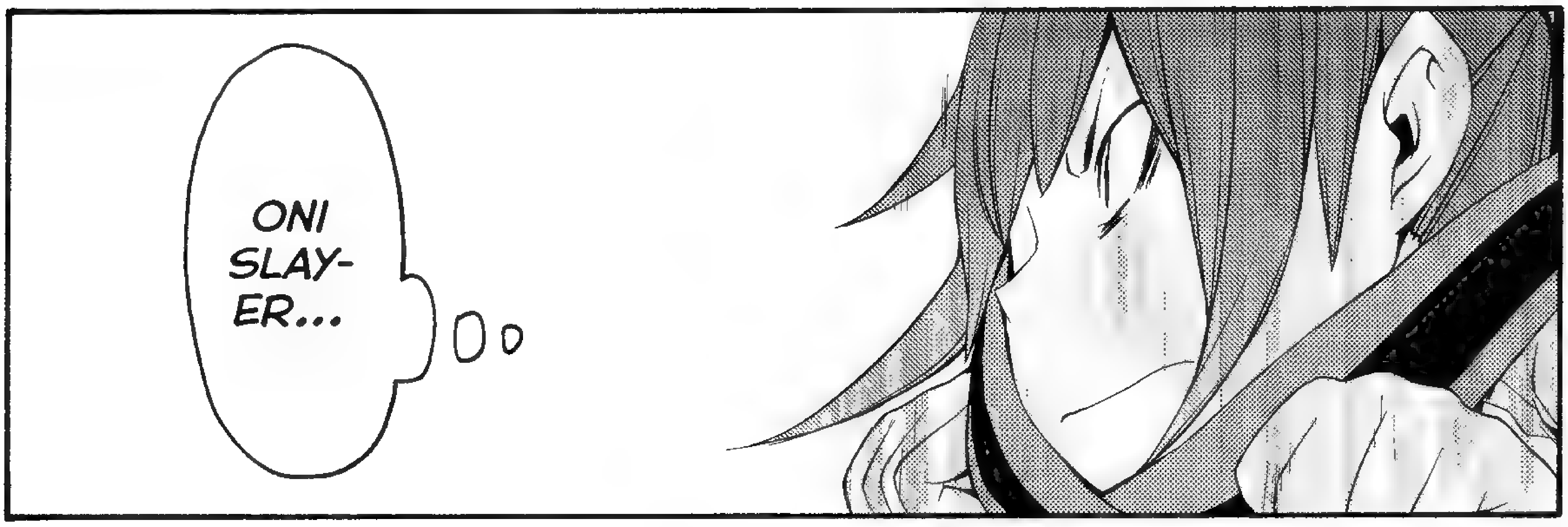
71ST NIGHT

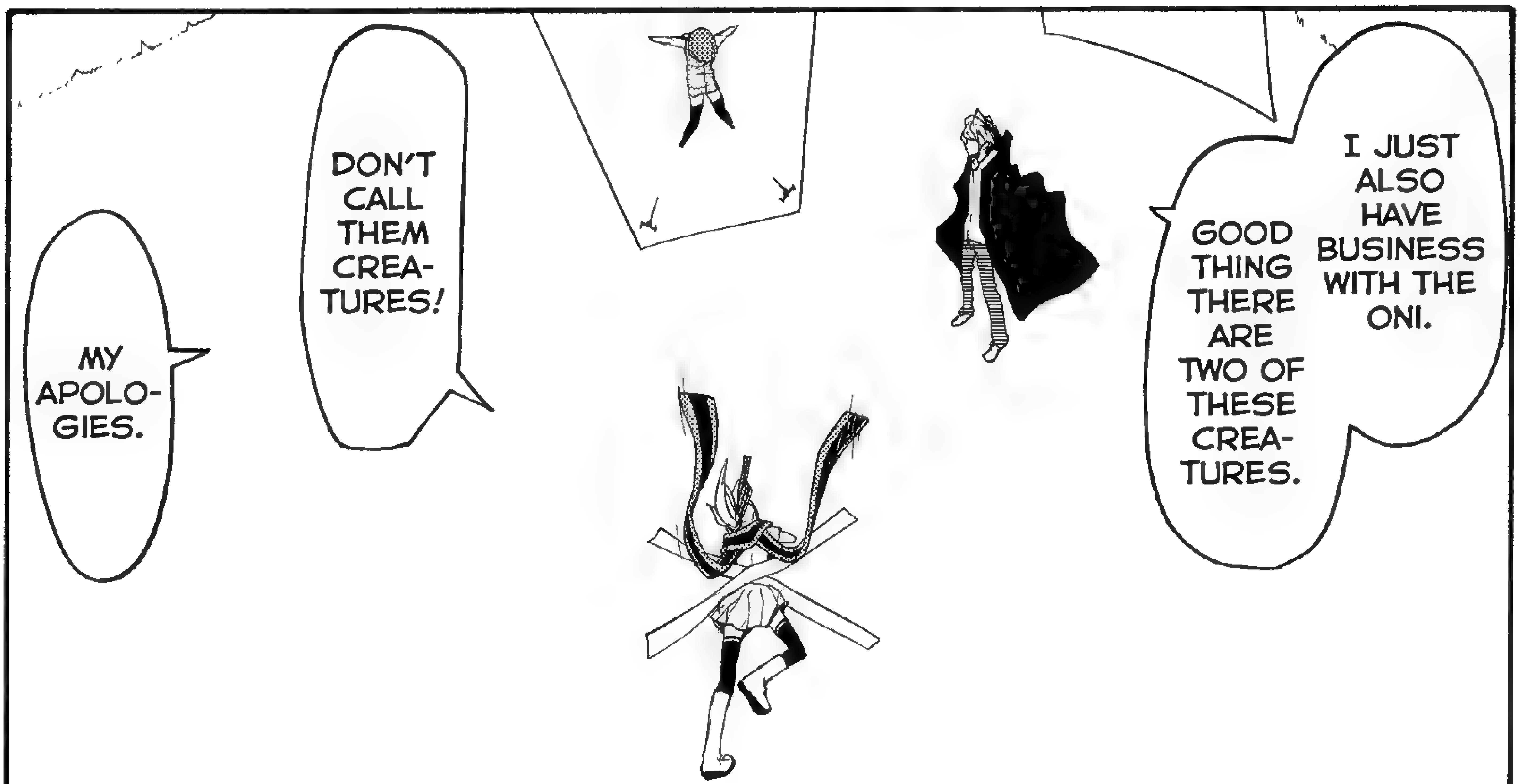

ZZT
HIME-CHAN?!
LIVE
NRGH... AO?!

THE BARRIER IS BLOCKING MY TELEPATHY RECEPTION.
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!
THE SENATE'S... ERG...
THE SENATE?! WE'VE GOT A DEMON HUNTER OVER HERE.
!
A DEMON HUNTER?!
HIME-CHAN!
HIME-
ZZAT
JEEZ...
WHAT TIMING.
DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO COME AT THE SAME TIME?


IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, I ASSURE YOU.
WELL,
I WAS AWARE OF THEIR MOVEMENTS.
すたっ
TMP


OUR RADAR PICKED UP THE DEMON HUNTER'S ONI SLAYER.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR PLANS.


ONI SLAYER...


I JUST ALSO HAVE BUSINESS WITH THE ONI.
GOOD THING THERE ARE TWO OF THESE CREATURES.
DON'T CALL THEM CREATURES!
MY APOLOGIES.

I ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ENGLAND...
...SO JAPANESE MANNERS ESCAPE ME.
POINT
HEY...!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
じたばた
WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
OH, PARDON ME.
I SUPPOSE ANAESTHESIA IS NECESSARY?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
封
SEAL
NOW, NOW. DON'T YOU WORRY.
UNLIKE THE DEMON HUNTER OVER THERE, I'M NOT HERE TO KILL THE ONI.
I MERELY WISH TO RESEARCH...
...THESE FASCINATING ORGANISMS KNOWN AS "ONI."
EVERY SINGLE SENSORY ORGAN.
THEIR NERVOUS SYSTEMS.
EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY.
RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONE.
WHAT LIES AT THE END OF MY EXAMINATION, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.

THOUGH IT IS TYPICAL...
...FOR FROGS TO DIE DURING A DISSECTION.
BAP
!

DON'T YOU DARE!
ばり
RIP
ばりっ
RIP
HM...
SLIDE
しゅ
A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION. I MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU.
I'LL HAVE TO ADJUST YOUR BINDING TALISMANS FOR NEXT TIME.
I'M STILL GROWING!
VERY WELL.
I WANTED DATA ON YOU, AS WELL, MISS DRAGON MAYOR.
I'LL START WITH YOU.

TROUBLE OVER THERE...
...AND TROUBLE OVER HERE.
I WANNA JOIN THEM...
うず FIDGET
うず FIDGET
PARTICULARLY,
THE ONI SLAYER SIDE.
CALL IT FATE OR WHATEVER, BUT I HAVE A DEBT TO PAY...
MMM. I WANNA JOIN THEM...
?
MMM...
GRR...
うず FIDGET
うず FIDGET
もじ もじ FIDGET
FIDGET

FATE?
HWAH!
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
OH, IT'S YOU, JURI. YOU STARTLED ME...
HEY, NOW. HANDS OFF.
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE AT THIS HOUR?
YOUR BROTHER WILL CHEW YOU OUT IF YOU TRY TO INTERFERE, RIGHT?
YUP. THAT'S WHY I'M SITTING HERE ANXIOUSLY WATCHING.
THEN AGAIN...
BACK-UP, AS USUAL.
THERE ARE TWO GROUPS, SO I'M PLAYING IT BY EAR FOR NOW.
GOOD WORK.
...THIS PAIRING...
...WON'T REALLY MAKE FOR A "FAMOUS MATCH."

ピッ
BEEP
ピピッ
BEE-BEEP
パシャッ
SNAP
ピピッ
BEE-BEEP
パシャッ
SNAP
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
パシャッ
SNAP
I JUST DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO MOVE THIS MUCH IN THE ANTI-DEMON BARRIER.
パシャッ
SNAP
WELL, NO MATTER.
THERE'S NO HARM IN HAVING MORE DATA.

WELL, THEN.
BOOM
ROOSTER 酉
NEXT, I'D LIKE TO COLLECT SOME KINETIC DATA.
WHOOSH
SPIN
WHUD

MONKEY
BA-
DOOM
すっ
SWIF

I LEARNED FROM FIGHTING ZAKURO!
AGAINST GUYS LIKE YOU...
...AIMING FOR THE MAIN BODY...
...IS BEST!
ガ
SNATCH
しッ

SORRY, I FORGOT TO MENTION SOMETHING.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR PREVIOUS OPPONENTS...
...BUT I'M RATHER STRONG...
...MYSELF.

ZOOM
ズッ…
OOOH, NO.
WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WHKOOSH
NOT HAPPENING...
UNTIL NOW...
...HAVE I REALLY BEEN OF ANY HELP TO EVERYONE?

HIME-CHAN?!
...OH, TOUKA.
MORNIN'...
FWUMP
どさっ
NO WAY... HIME-CHAN'S GETTING BEAT THIS BADLY?

WELL, FOR ONE, SHE'S NOT USING A WEAPON.
ACCORDING TO HER FILE, SHE'S TRAINED WITH A SPEAR HER WHOLE LIFE,
BUT HER WEAKNESS APPEARS TO BE UNARMED COMBAT.
GRIP
I CAN'T DO IT HERE...
ON TOP OF THAT, WE'RE INSIDE THIS ANTI-DEMON BARRIER.
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO BREAK FREE FROM HER RESTRAINTS, BUT THIS FACTOR IS DECISIVE.
STOP...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

SLAP
CRACK
メキ
AH...
HYAH!
KRK
KIK
めキめキ
AS A RESULT, I COLLECTED PLENTY OF DATA ON THE DRAGON.
NOW FOR THE ONI.
INTERNAL BLEEDING, CHECK.
SNAP
パシャッ
HEY!
STOP THIS RIGHT NOW!
SNATCH
AAH!
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
OKAY, OKAY.
LET'S ALL HAVE FUN TOGETHER, THEN.
ZA
ZA
ZA

I'M SORRY, TOUKA.
I LOST TO THIS JERK...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING, HIME-CHAN?
I'M THE ONE HOLDING YOU BACK...
NO...
HE'S THE ONE TO BLAME!
キッ
GLARE
YOU WOUND ME.
I'M ACTUALLY BEING CONSIDERATE, YOU KNOW.
IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO LOSE ANY NUMBER OF CAPABLE DEMON HANDS IN THE EVENT OF A HALF-DEMON ATTACK.
THEREFORE, I DON'T WANT TO LOWER THIS TOWN'S DEFENSES AGAINST SUCH THREATS.
WITH THAT IN MIND, BETWEEN THE TWO ONI, I CHOSE TO TARGET THIS ONE.
...
WHAT DO YOU ...?
I MEAN, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
...THIS ONI HASN'T BEEN OF ANY USE TO THE TOWN, HAS SHE?

OW...
ギチャッ
CHIK
すべ
SMOOTH
すべ
SMOOTH
ぺた
RUB
ぺた
RUB
OW, OW ...

GAAH...
WOULD YOU GET OFF OF ME?
STEEL BEAMS!
THNK
THNK
BZT
FLIP
KOTO-HA!
SHEESH... I'M NOT GOOD WITH OUTRIGHT STRONG FIGHTERS LIKE THIS.
BLEH
TRICKY OPPONENTS ARE EASIER TO DEAL WITH!
DAMN.
WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL OVER HERE, BUT...
TOU-KA!
... ALL YOU DO IS LOOK OVER THERE.
HEY...
PAY ATTENTION TO ME, TOO.
PLEASE...

HIME'S AT A HUGE DISADVANTAGE IN THAT BARRIER...
...
AKINA?
GIVE ME A SEC.
...
WHERE'D SHE GO?
OKAY. AO, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
YES-SIR!
OPEN UP A CHANNEL TO HIME.
I NEED YOU TO TELL HER SOMETHING.
パチッ
BZT
!
WUMP
ドシャっ
!

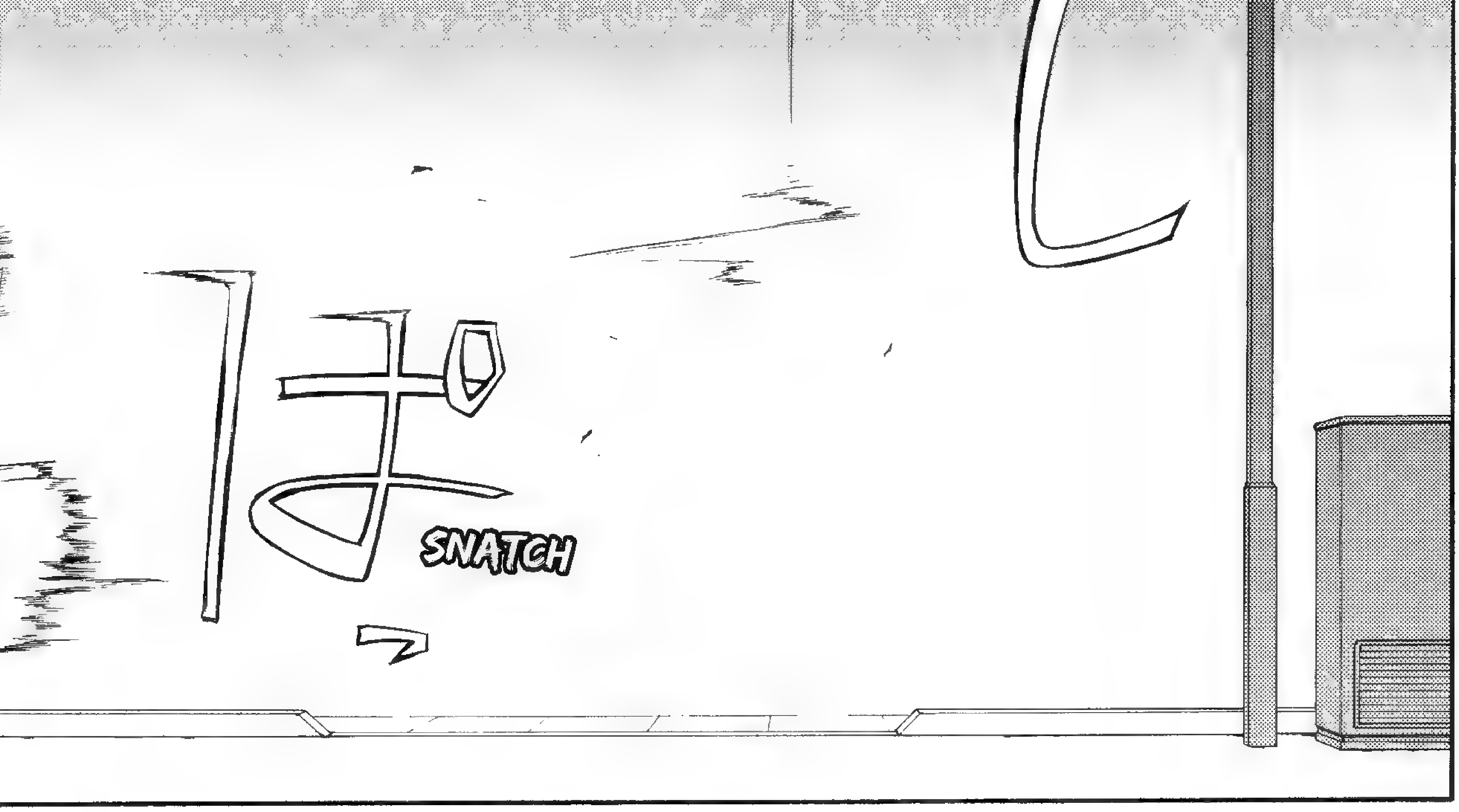
TELEPATHY, I PRESUME?
GO ON. TAKE YOUR TIME.
TELEPATHY...?
HELLO? WHAT IS IT?
YEAH.
AO-CHAN'S...
WHAT COULD SHE WANT?
I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE WITH *SOME* AMOUNT OF BRAINS ON YOUR SIDE.
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.
THEY'RE CALLING FOR A TACTICAL RETREAT.
WHAT...?
THEY'RE GOING TO ABANDON YOU AND PULL BACK.
BY DOING SO, THEY CAN MINIMIZE CASUALTIES.

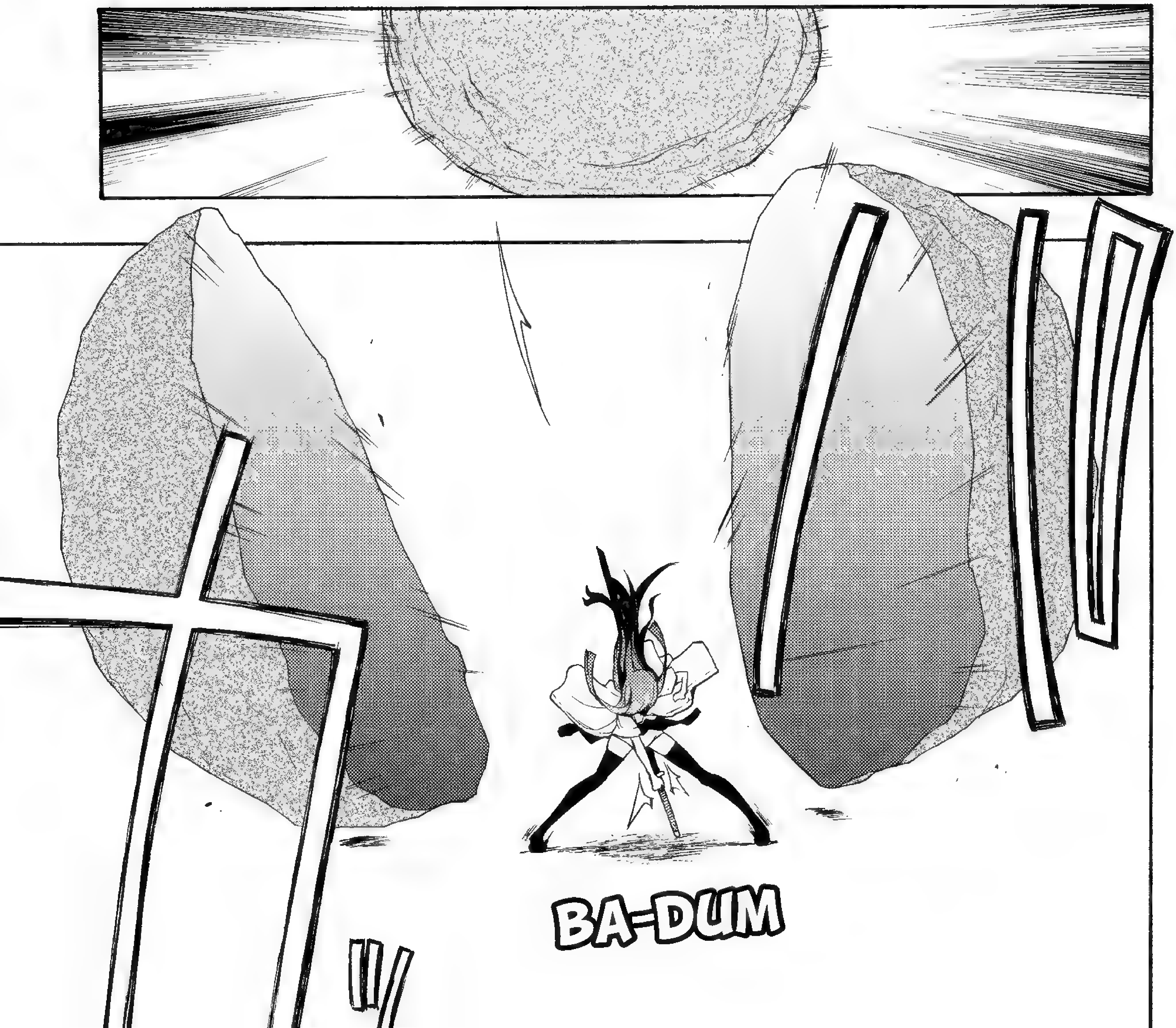
WHAT?! NO WAY! I CAN'T JUST...
BZT
AN ANTI-DEMON BARRIER AND A DEMON.
COULD THERE BE A WORSE MATCH-UP?
NOT TO MENTION, MISS MAYOR THERE IS THIS TOWN'S MAIN LINE OF DEFENSE, SO THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HER.
THEREFORE...
...THE CHOICE OF WHOM TO SACRIFICE SHOULD BE CLEAR.
...
NOW...
BEEP
SHOO
BE IT FROM THE INSIDE OR THE OUTSIDE, THIS BARRIER ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE BROKEN...
...BY A DEMON SUCH AS YOU.
SO, I'VE GONE AHEAD AND MADE YOU AN EXIT.

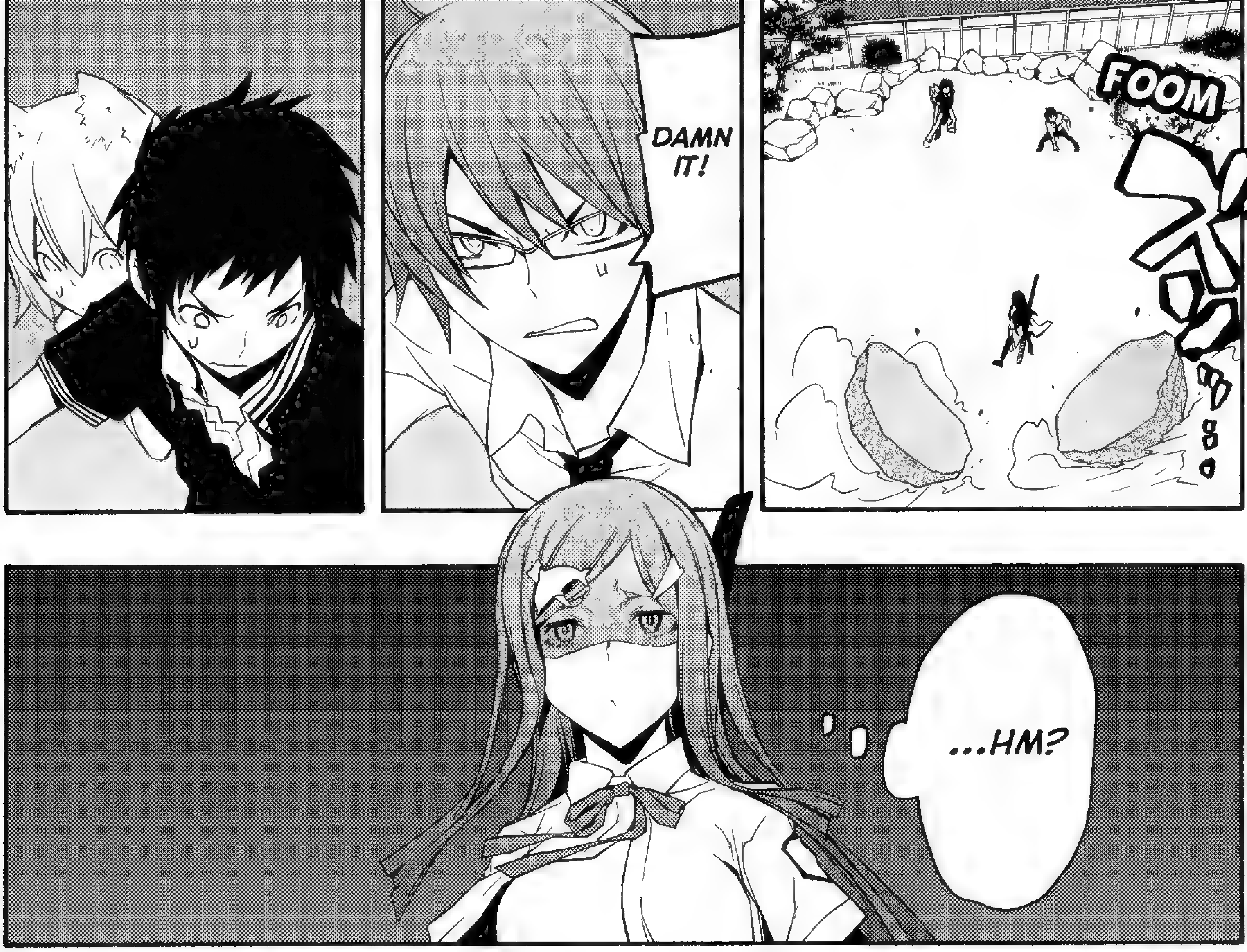
GO ON.
IF YOU LEAVE NOW, THEN I'LL SPARE YOU.
WELL?
WELL ?!
...
パチ... BZT
SWIF
すっ...

シュウッ・・・
SHOO
AAH ...
ALONE, AT LAST.
WE HAVE A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US.
LET'S ENJOY IT, SHALL WE?
GOOD.
THAT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER.

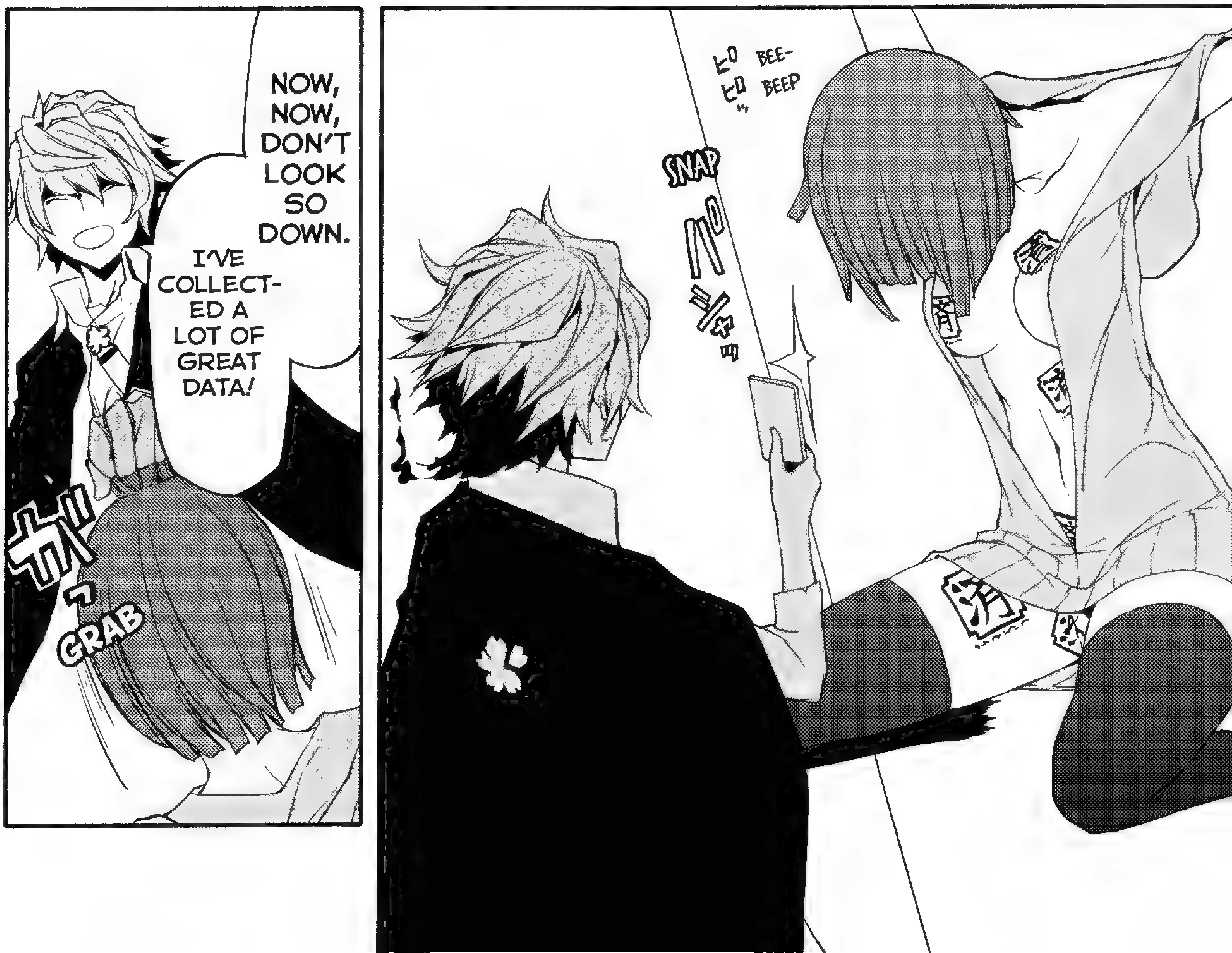
IT'S RIGHT...
...BUT THAT ALONE IS ONLY WORTH HALF CREDIT.
NOW, NEXT IS...
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
TICKLE
TICKLE
WA HA HA HA!
ROLL
ごろ
ROLL
りん
AH!
UH-OH! SORRY!
BOING
ぼよ
BOING
よん


ぱしっ
SNATCH


BA-DUM


FOOM
DAMN IT!
...HM?

Stamp: “Checked”


ピロ ピロ
BEE-BEEP
SNAP
パシャ
NOW, NOW, DON'T LOOK SO DOWN. I'VE COLLECTED A LOT OF GREAT DATA!
ガバッ
GRAB

OH, MY.
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THAT KIND OF FACE.
SHOW A LITTLE MORE SADNESS, WON'T YOU?
SADNESS? WHY?
HIME-CHAN, AKINA-SAN, AO-CHAN, KOTOHA-CHAN,
ONII-CHAN...
THEY WOULD NEVER ABANDON ME.
SO, I'M JUST SMILING AND WAITING.
YANK
AH...!

ROCK
がくん
LET'S FACE IT, YOU WERE LEFT BEHIND.
THAT'S NOT... TRUE.
がくん
ROCK
ROCK
ROCK
C'MON!
ADMIT IT!
NO... THEY'D NEVER...
SO...I DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
I MAY BE USELESS,
BUT I CAN AT LEAST BELIEVE IN EVERYONE.
育
ガっ
GRAB

...I SEE. YOU HAVE A STRONG HEART.
I'M VERY INTERESTED IN THAT HEART.
I'D LOVE TO EXAMINE IT.
BZZT
HYAH...!
ZA
ZA
ZA
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO GO AHEAD AND REMOVE YOUR HEART? IT IS, RIGHT?
ZA
YES, I'M SURE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
ZA
YOU SHOULD BE JUST FINE WITHOUT A HEART.
YOU'RE A MONSTER, AFTER ALL.

WHAM

だ
TAP
だ
TAP
キキッ
SQUEAK
TAP
だ
だ
TAP
だ
TAP
OH!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' OUT AT THIS HOUR?
TAP
だ
TAP
だ
だ
TAP
だ
TAP
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOIN' ON, BUT MUNCH ON THIS ...
TAP
だ
SNATCH
ぱしっ
THANKS!
TAP
だ
ばっ
FWISH
ぐん
LEAN

!
COME FORTH, DRAGON SPEAR...
...SAKANADE!
VOOM

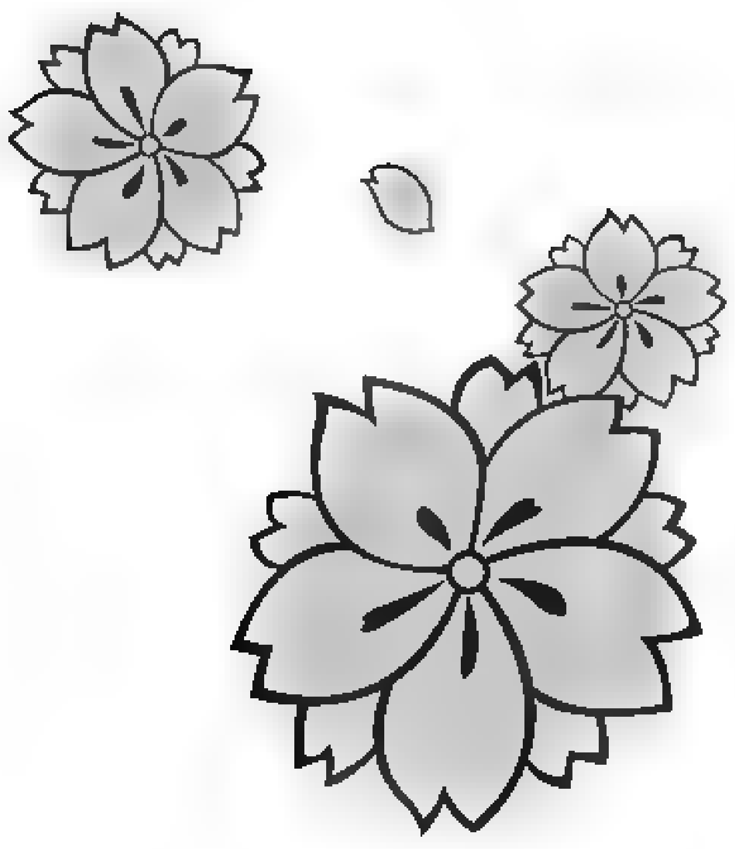
THUD

DON'T GET ME WRONG, THAT GUY MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL...
...BUT KOTOHA'S DEFINITELY A BETTER MATCH FOR HIM THAN ME.
I KNOW I CAN LEAVE IT IN HER HANDS.
BUT Y'KNOW,
I STILL WANT TO DECK HIM AT LEAST ONCE...
...WITH MY OWN HANDS.
AT LEAST...
...I BET THAT'S WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
SO...

I NEED TO GET BACK THERE SOON,
SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
DOOM

71ST NIGHT ONI TALE (PART THREE) END

YOZAKURA QUARTET
13



YOZAKURA QUARTET 13

かぽっ
PLUNK
WHOA!
KOTO-HA-CHAN?!
SOMETHING'S ON MY HEAD! WHAT IS THIS...?
OH, BUT I SEE IT! YOU SURE I CAN HANDLE THAT?!
WO
IT SHOULD BE FINE, SINCE YOU'RE A HALF-DEMON.
AIM A LITTLE LOWER AND TWO DEGREES TO THE RIGHT.
OOO
YEAH, FROM THAT ANGLE.
CHARGE RIGHT THROUGH!

WHAM
FWUMP
ドギャッ
TOU-KA.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
...YEAH, I'M FINE.
I JUST HAD MY DATA TAKEN...
BEEP BEEP
ピロピロッ
キッ
GLARE

MUMBLE MUMBLE
ブツブツブツブツ
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THIS BARRIER SHOULD BE COMPLETELY IMPENETRABLE... AFTER ALL, THIS TOWN'S MAIN LINE OF DEFENSE ARE THE DEMONS. THERE'S NO WAY REGULAR HUMANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY IT... BUT AS IT STANDS...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
ブツブツブツブツ
WERE MY PREDICTIONS WRONG? NO, THAT'S NOT IT. I DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO DO ANY CLINICAL STUDIES INVOLVING HALF-DEMONS. FOR STARTERS, HALF-DEMONS ARE...
MUMBLE
ブツブツ
MUMBLE
ブツブツ
MUMBLE
ブツブツ
...
THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS POSITIVELY!
MISS KOTODAMA USER!
LET'S COLLECT YOUR DATA, AS WELL!
ぱあっ
SMILE
COLLECT MY DATA? Y'MEAN LIKE IN THESE VULGAR PHOTOS?
GO AHEAD AND TRY.
BUT BEFORE YOU DO...
CRACK
めきっ...
SNAP
めき...
...I'M GONNA TAKE THAT SMIRK OF YOURS...
めきっ
CRACK

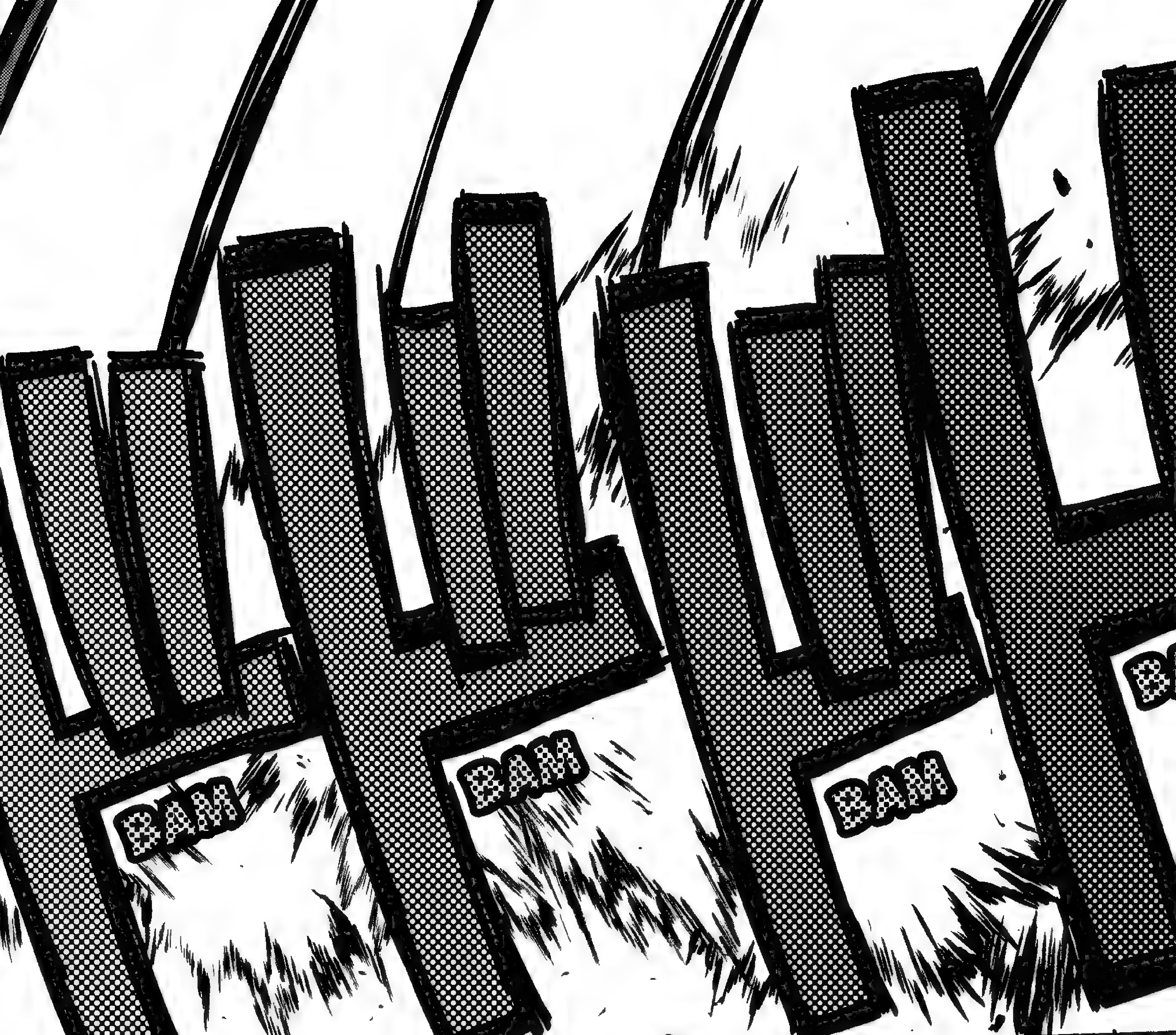
...AND WIPE IT...
...RIGHT OFF YOUR FACE!
GRSH

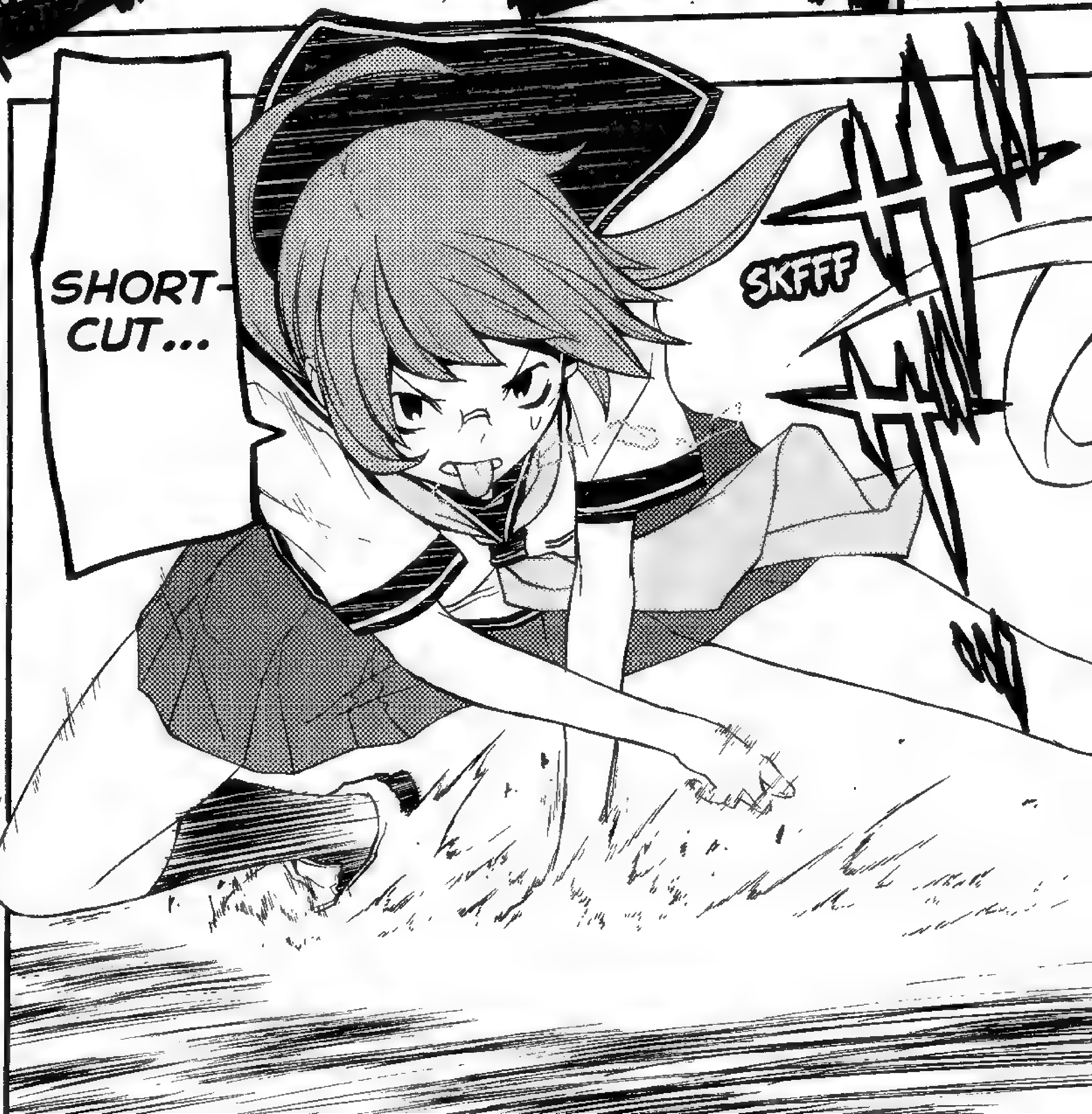
#72 ONI TALE (PART FOUR)

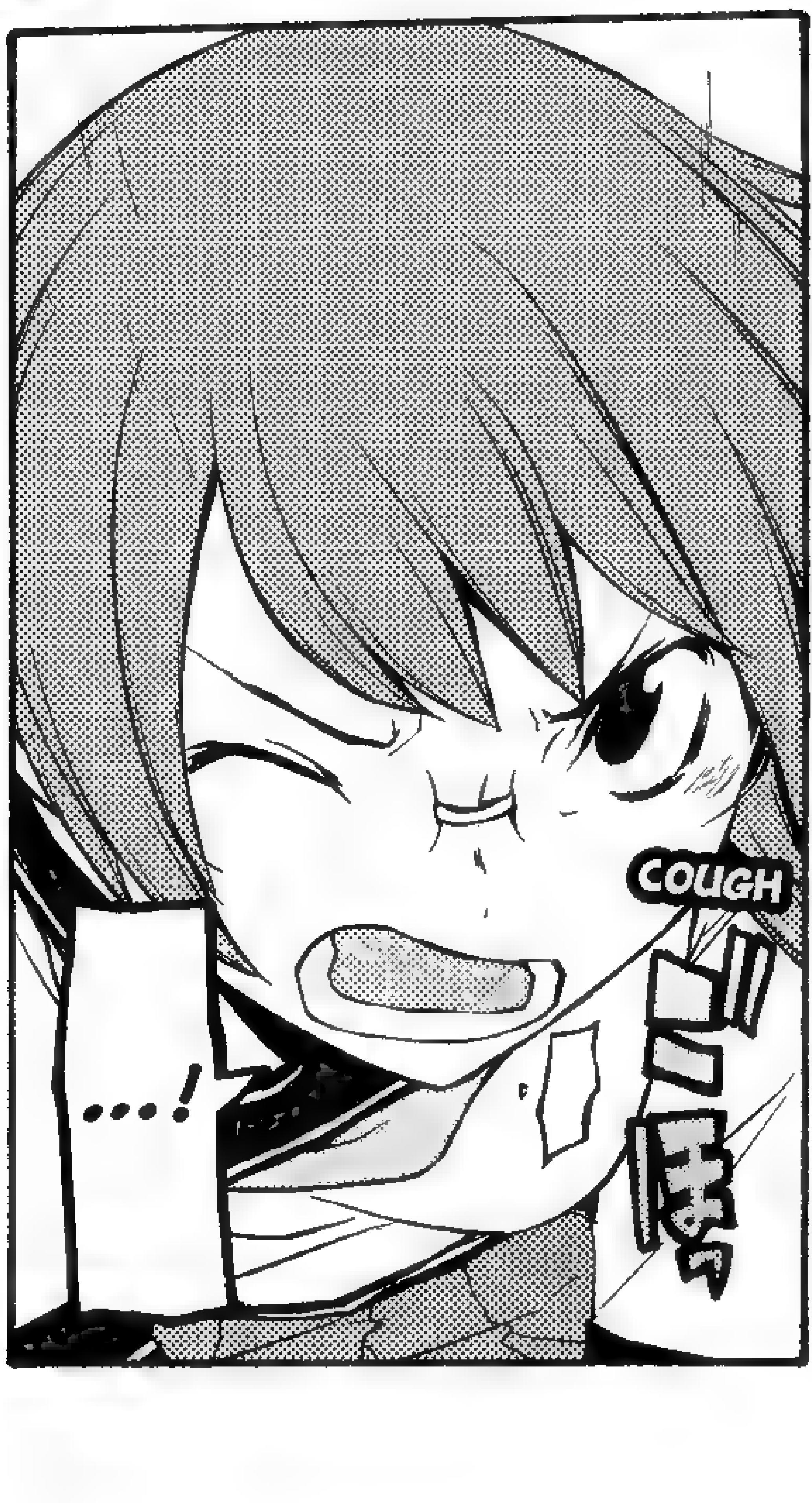
BAM
THANK GOODNESS. WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE THE AVATAR OF A DRAGON, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SCALES OR SOMETHING.
BUT YOUR SKIN LOOKS SO SMOOTH AND EASY TO CUT...
ONI ARE GREAT, BUT I LOVE DRAGONS, TOO!
I DON'T HAVE SCALES.
I DO HAVE GOOSEBUMPS, THOUGH.
I'M THIS TOWN'S MAYOR, HIME YARIZAKURA!
I'M THE 13TH MASTER OF THE KUJOUIN SCHOOL OF IAI-JUTSU,
IRUKA KUJOUIN.
AND THIS IS MY TRUSTY SWORD, ONI SLAYER.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
KUJOUIN STYLE.
I'VE HEARD OF IT...
ふーむ
HMM...

OH, HIME!
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
I DID...
YES, I DID...
?
NICE ONE, AKINA-SAN!
THAT RESTORED HIME'S HP!
THAT BEING SAID...
SHE BARELY HAS A SCRATCH ON HER.
ぴょん
BOING
ぴょん
BOING
ROUND TWO'S GONNA BE TOUGH...
FOR KOTOHA, TOO.

PEEK
ちら
ドサッ
THUD
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S USED UP A LOT ALREADY.
MURASAKI'S STRONG, KOTOHA.
BE CAREFUL!
AND INFURIATING...


BAM
BAM
BAM
BA

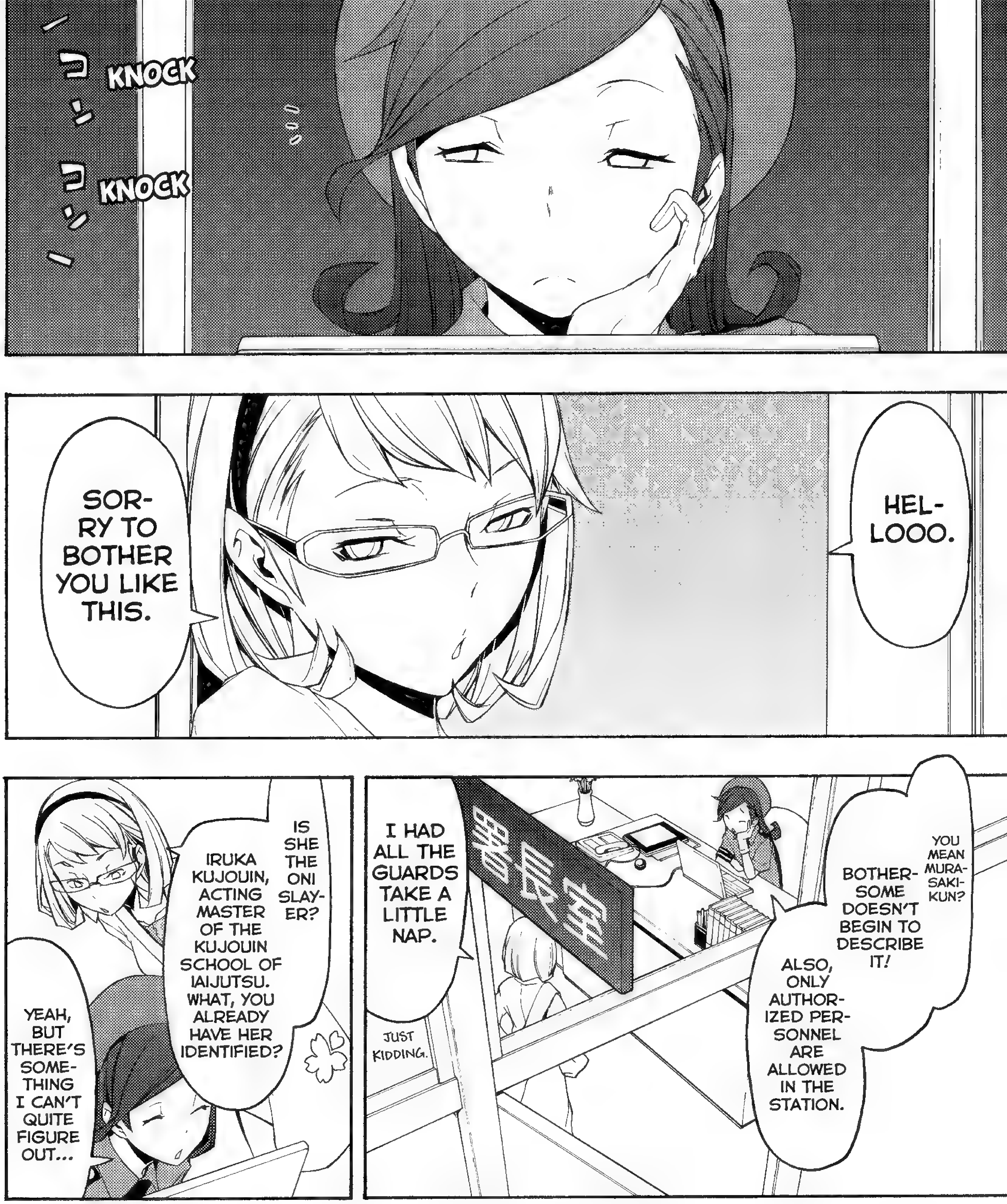

SKFFF
SHORT-CUT...


COUGH
ゴホッ
...!

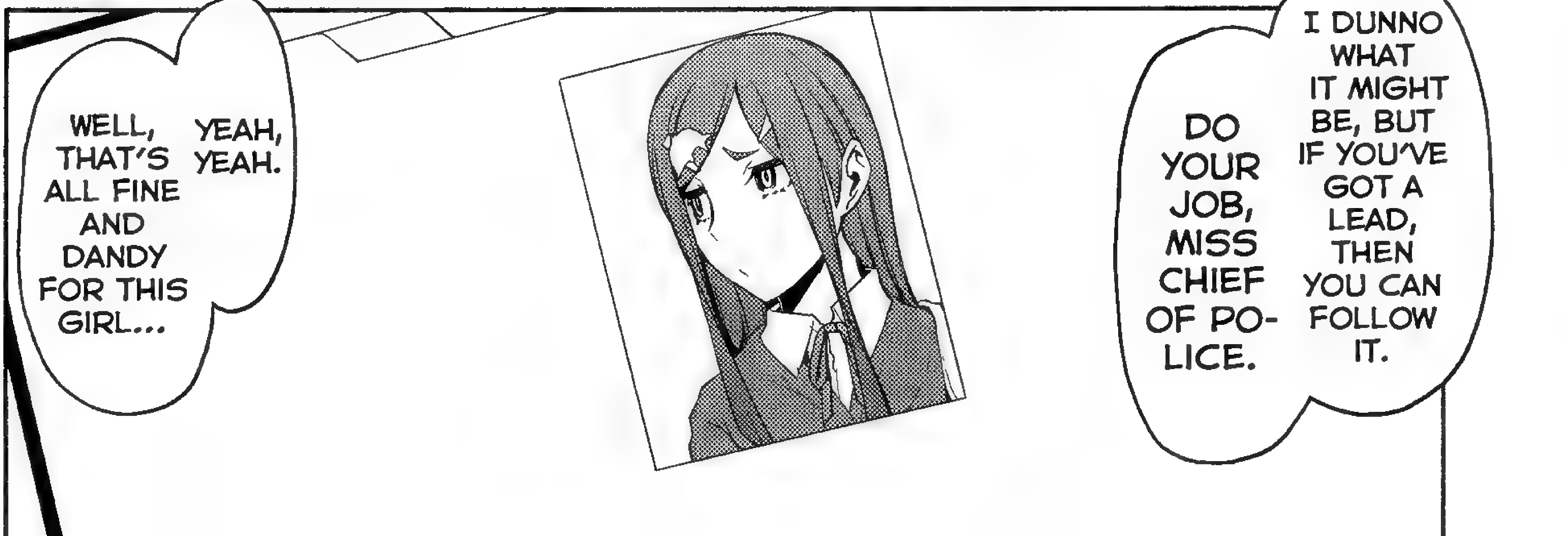
BAM
BAM
BAM
FOOM
NEVER MIND!
ぴょん
BOING
AWW.
PLEASE USE YOUR KOTODAMA. I REALLY WANT DATA ON IT.
DON'T TEASE ME LIKE THAT.
HMPH!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME FIGHTING AN ONMYO-DO USER.

"ROOSTER."
BEEP
WHISH
WHOOSH
HUP!
"MONKEY."
FLUTTER
THE POWER OF THE ZODIAC.
IT'S EASY TO TELL THE ATTACKS FROM THEIR NAMES, BUT...

FLUTTER
NGH!
SQUEEZE
HALF-DEMON AND DEMON POWERS...
...COUNT AS "ABILITIES."
KRRT
BUT ONMYODO USES "TECHNOLOGY."
MEANING...
..."FATIGUE" ISN'T A FACTOR!
HOW FORTUNATE! I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME TRUTH SERUM ON ME.
TO THINK IT WOULD COME IN HANDY FOR MAKING YOU USE YOUR *KOTODAMA*.
WHAT A PLEASANT MISCALCULATION!


KNOCK
KNOCK
HELLOOO.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU LIKE THIS.
YOU MEAN MURASAKI-KUN?
BOTHERSOME DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT!
ALSO, ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ARE ALLOWED IN THE STATION.
署長室
I HAD ALL THE GUARDS TAKE A LITTLE NAP.
JUST KIDDING.
IS SHE THE ONI SLAYER?
IRUKA KUJOUIN, ACTING MASTER OF THE KUJOUIN SCHOOL OF IAIJUTSU. WHAT, YOU ALREADY HAVE HER IDENTIFIED?
YEAH, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT...

Sign: Chief of Police


I DUNNO WHAT IT MIGHT BE, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT A LEAD, THEN YOU CAN FOLLOW IT.
DO YOUR JOB, MISS CHIEF OF POLICE.
YEAH, YEAH.
WELL, THAT'S ALL FINE AND DANDY FOR THIS GIRL...

...BUT MURASAKI-KUN IS ANOTHER STORY.
HE WAS OVERSEAS UNTIL NOW, AND THERE'S NO DATA ON HIM.
I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE.
FWIP
GO ON, TRY AND TAKE IT.
USB
HMM?
WHAT'S SEDUCING ME GOING TO DO?
SWIPE
IT'S JUST FOR PRACTICE! I MIGHT HAVE TO USE IT SOMEDAY!
Do
I DOUBT IT.
SO, WHY WERE YOU THE ONE SENT TO DEAL WITH MURASAKI-KUN AND NOT SHIDARE-SAN OR UZU-SAN?
COPYING FILES
HE MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HE'S A BUREAU DIRECTOR NOW.
IF THEY SENT SOMEONE OF THE SAME RANK AS HIM, THEN IT COULD TURN INTO AN INTERNAL CONFLICT.
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?
ADULTS ARE AWFUL.
WELL, I GUESS SO.
WHY WON'T THE POLICE MOVE?
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO LEAVE IT TO THOSE KIDS?
WHAT'S SCARY ABOUT FIGHTING IS "STRAY BULLETS," RIGHT?
IN ORDER TO PREVENT COLLATERAL DAMAGE, ALL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO EVACUATE THE AREA.
REGULAR OLD HUMANS LIKE US JUST GET IN THE WAY WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTS LIKE THIS.

HIME-CHAN HAS ALWAYS WANTED IT THAT WAY.
WITH THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS SECURED, SHE'S ABLE TO FIGHT WITHOUT WORRY.
WELL, I GUESS SO.
THOUGH YOU GUYS ARE STRONG WITH THE RIGHT PLAN.
THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED. THIS TIME, I DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT FOR US TO ACT AS BACKUP.
IN THE END, THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STAND UP AGAINST SUPERNATURAL POWERS ARE MORE SUPERNATURAL POWERS.
WE'LL MOVE OUT WHEN THE TIME COMES, BUT IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON HIME AND THE GANG.
I SEE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MURASAKI?
HE'S JUST A HUMAN.
THE POLICE CAN'T GO PICKING FIGHTS WITH THE SENATE NOW, CAN WE?
IF OUR RELATIONSHIP GETS EVEN MORE COMPLICATED, IT'LL ALL JUST TURN INTO A BIG JUMBLED MESS.
AHA. TRUE ENOUGH.
THAT'S WHY THE POLICE WON'T GET INVOLVED.
1
2
3
...OFFICIALLY, ANYWAY.
MUTTER
ぼそ、
SLY LITTLE FOX.
DD

WHAT IS MURASAKI HERE FOR, ANYWAY?
THOSE TWO SIBLINGS. THE ONI.
KYOSUKE AND TOUKA?
YEP. THEY'RE A SPECIAL CASE IN THE SENSE THAT THEIR ORIGINS ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR AVERAGE DEMON.
カタ カタ
TAK TAK
THE IDEA OF BEINGS CREATED BY THE WORD OF MAN HAS HIM ABSOLUTELY FASCINATED... *HM?* WHAT'S THIS?
YOU HAVE MORE DETAILED DATA ON THEM THAN EVEN WE DO!
OH, REALLY?
ぴっ
PLUCK
GO ON.
TRY AND TAKE IT, IF YOU...
ヒュー
FWOO
ストン
CLACK
TEXAS?
わお～ん
WAAAH
NOTHING STOPPED IT FROM FALLING!
I'VE KNOWN THIS GIRL FOR TOO LONG.
JURI, TOO.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO THE TOWN YET?
YES.
THANKS TO YOU, SIR.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
STRANGE TOWN, ISN'T IT? WHAT WITH ALL THE DEMONS AND THE SEVEN PILLARS.
AND THE "DUTY."
...INDEED.

ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THE POWER ON TO AKINA?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T?
IT ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE "PASSED ON," BUT TO BE "RECEIVED."
IT IS HIS DECISION TO MAKE.
REGARDLESS OF HOW MARVELOUS THE OTHER SIDE MIGHT BE, BEING SENT MEANS TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD.
IT'S MY OPINION THAT THE LOSS OF RELATIONS IS DEATH IN ITSELF.
BUT...
...I DOUBT THOSE WHO ARE SENT THINK OF IT AS BEING KILLED.
PERHAPS.
HOWEVER...
...IT MEANS TO STEAL THAT DEMON'S EXISTENCE...
...FROM EVERYONE THEY KNEW.
IN OTHER WORDS, KILLING IT.
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF IT THAT WAY.

WELL, I THINK IT'S STILL TOO DIFFICULT OF A TOPIC FOR AKINA TO HANDLE,
BUT I WANT HIM TO TAKE HIS TIME AND THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY.
RATHER, I'D SAY...
...SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO WAS BORN FROM THE WORD OF MAN...
...CAN UNDERSTAND THIS TOPIC MUCH MORE EASILY.
No. 7
...KYOSUKE.
HEY, KYOSUKE!

SWISH
CLINK
パチン…。
THIS IS NO TIME FOR SPACING OUT!
SORRY...
ばっ
FWIP
STAND BACK, KYOSUKE!
BUT...
REST FOR A BIT.
I HAVE AN IDEA!
ばっ
FWIP
CHIK
CLANG

IAIJUTSU LEAVES ONE OPEN AFTER THE DRAW.
IF I STRIKE THEN...
AKI-NA!
WAIT!
FLIP
PULL

WHISH
WHAAA? THAT'S WEIRD.
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU.
"STRONG, EVEN WHEN UN-SHEATHED."
THAT IS...
...THE KUJOUIN SCHOOL OF IAI-JUTSU'S MOTTO.
...
YOU, THERE.
すい
POINT

YOU HAVE SHARP EYES,
AND YOUR INTUITION FOR ATTACKS IS EXCELLENT.
YOU'D SHOW GREAT PROMISE WITH TRAINING...
WHY, THANK YOU.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
POINT
すい
...FOR AN ONI, YOU'RE MOSTLY WORTHLESS.
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT? HOW DISAPPOINTING...
...
WELL, YEAH.
HE'S AGAINST HIS NATURAL PREDATOR, AN ONI SLAYER. OF COURSE HE'S AT A DISADVANTAGE.
CRACK
ギシ
IT'S LIKE A SNAKE STARING DOWN A FROG.
THEN THERE'S THIS ISSUE.
ちら
PEEK

AAH, JEEZ...
HE CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT TOUKA.
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN GO ALL OUT LIKE THIS.
ENOUGH.
THIS IS PUTTING ME TO SLEEP.
CLINK
パチン
IT'S MORE FUN TO FIGHT THE DRAGON GIRL.
TIME TO PUT AN END...
ぐ…
GRIP
...TO YOU.
SWISH

GET IT TOGETHER, KYOSUKE!
YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS!
YOU WANT TO SAVE TOUKA, RIGHT?! THEN GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME!
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
...!
TOUKA'LL BE CRUSHED IF YOU DIE!
SHUT UP!
KUH!
CLANG
GAAAH...
ぴょこ
POP
THAT'S THE WRONG APPROACH.
KYO-SUKE-SAAAN!
ぴょん
BOING

IF YOU TRY YOUR HARDEST HERE,
I'M SURE TOUKA...
...WILL SAY THINGS LIKE, "ONII-CHAN, YOU'RE SO COOL!"
"I LOVE YOU!"
GRAB
ガしっ
ぐぐ…
GRIP
REALLY?!
HOW SIMPLE...
ACTUALLY, MAYBE IT'S COMPLICATED?!
I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE OLDER BROTHERS!

THAT SAID, WE'RE JUST BUYING TIME.
HIME-CHAAAN! AKINA-SAAAN!
?
OH, TELEPATHY.
BZT
...HUH? I SEE. THAT MIGHT WORK BETTER.
CAN YOU PULL THAT OFF?!
ぱくぱく NOM
OM ぱく
NOM
ごっくん GULP
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!
ぱちん SLAP
HERE I GO...

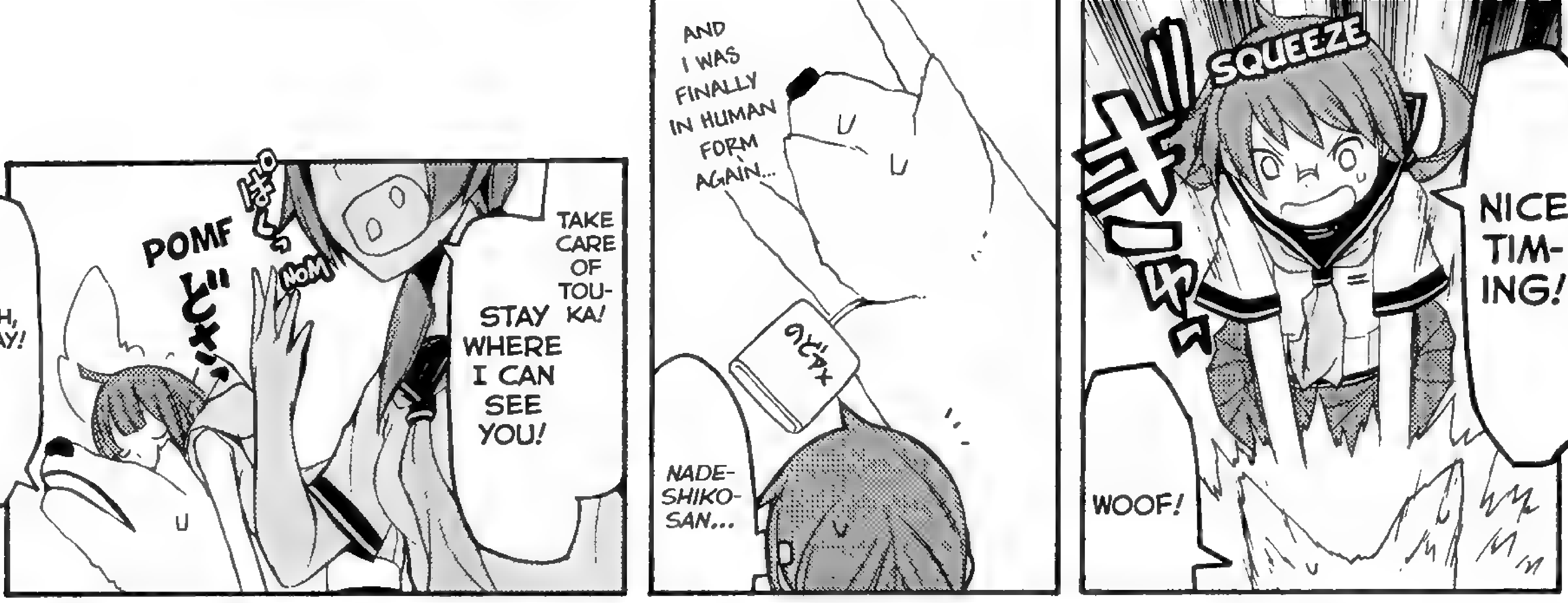
SATEL-LITE!
DOOM

WOO
OO
OOO
HMM.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THAT LIGHT? FIREWORKS OF INFORMATION?
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
HOW UNSIGHTLY.
...HMPH.

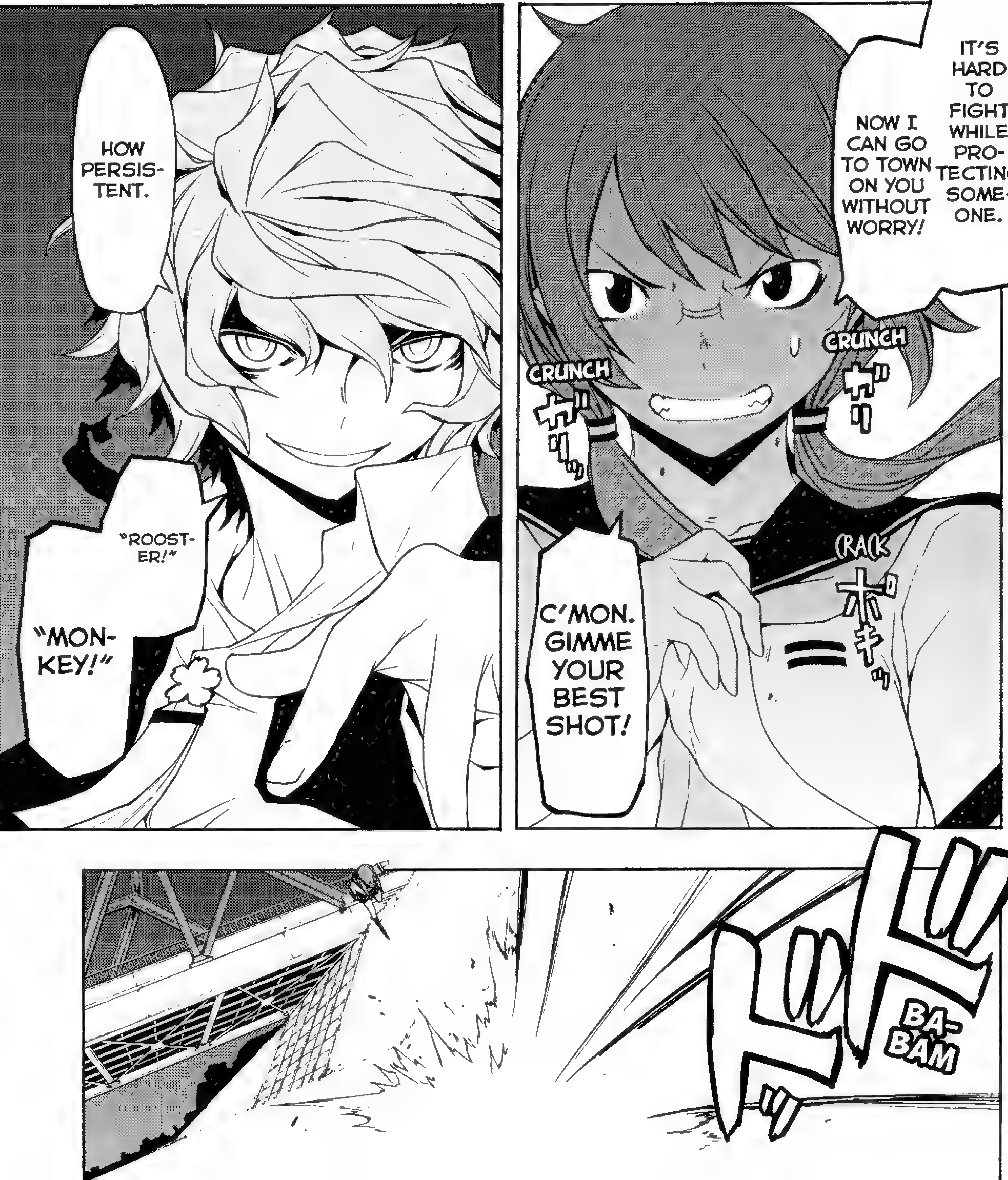
ごほげほっ
COUGH
COUGH
YOU SURE DO KICK UP A STORM.
WELL, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I COLLECT YOUR DATA...
...THEN A LITTLE MORE ON THE ONI.
AFTER THAT, LET'S SEE...
THE SATORI'S POWER IS ALSO RATHER INTRIGUING.
ピクッ
TWITCH
MAYBE I'LL LAY EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT POWER BARE, TOO.
CLENCH
!
ギュッ
CLENCH
GUH...
ギチ
GRIP
LAY ONE FINGER ON AO...
AND I SWEAR I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET IT!
ギチッ
GRIP

BZZT
GAHH!
AGAIN WITH THOSE LEGS...
くた、
SLUMP
I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN YOUR KOTODAMA.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
ピッ
PLIP
SO I DON'T REALLY MIND...
...IF YOU LOSE A LEG OR TWO.
MAYBE THAT WILL MAKE YOU A LITTLE MORE COOPERATIVE.
ぐぐっ
GRIT
TCH...

FOOM
RO-
ROKKAKU!
HOWDY!
I'M HERE ON THE CHIEF'S ORDERS!
HUH ...?


SQUEEZE
ギュッ
NICE TIMING!
WOOF!
AND I WAS FINALLY IN HUMAN FORM AGAIN...
のどアメ
NADESHIKO-SAN...
TAKE CARE OF TOUKA!
STAY WHERE I CAN SEE YOU!
ぽくっ
NOM
POMF
UHH, OKAY!

Bag: Cough Drops


IT'S HARD TO FIGHT WHILE PROTECTING SOMEONE.
NOW I CAN GO TO TOWN ON YOU WITHOUT WORRY!
CRUNCH
ガリ
CRUNCH
ガリッ
CRACK
ポキッ
C'MON. GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT!
HOW PERSISTENT.
"ROOSTER!"
"MONKEY!"
ドドッ
BA-BAM

YOU SURE ARE A ONE-TRICK PONY!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY USING THE RAT, OR THE COW, OR ANY OF THE OTHER ZODIAC?
TMP タッ
IT ISN'T NECESSARY.
THIS WILL BE OVER SOON.
ドッ
BAM
ドッ
BAM
ドッ
BAM
...?!
...?

SOMETHING'S STRANGE. NO, MAYBE NOT.
IN TERMS OF STYLES, IT'S NOT STRANGE FOR HER TO SCRAPE BY IN A FIGHT...
...BUT SOMETHING'S OFF ABOUT THEIR MOVEMENTS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
HNN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I MADE SURE YOU WERE SAFELY SECURED, SO YOU SHOULDN'T FALL.
YEAH, I'M OKAY.
IT'S WEIRD...
I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, ROKKAKU-SAN.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO FLUFFY...
HUH?
UMM. I WONDER.
MY FUR CAME IN HANDY?!
CLANG
WHOA!

WHISH
WHISH
I SEE.
YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
TRULY MARVELOUS.
WHIF
WHIF
WHIF
I DON'T WANT YOUR FLATTERY!
AND I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!
TAP
TAP
BOING
ALLEY...

...OOP?
BAM
O-OOH?!
I FOUND A POTION!
LICK
LICK
KOTOHA-CHAN, THAT HURT!
HM? WHAT'S AO DOING HERE?
...HUH?
ISN'T THIS...

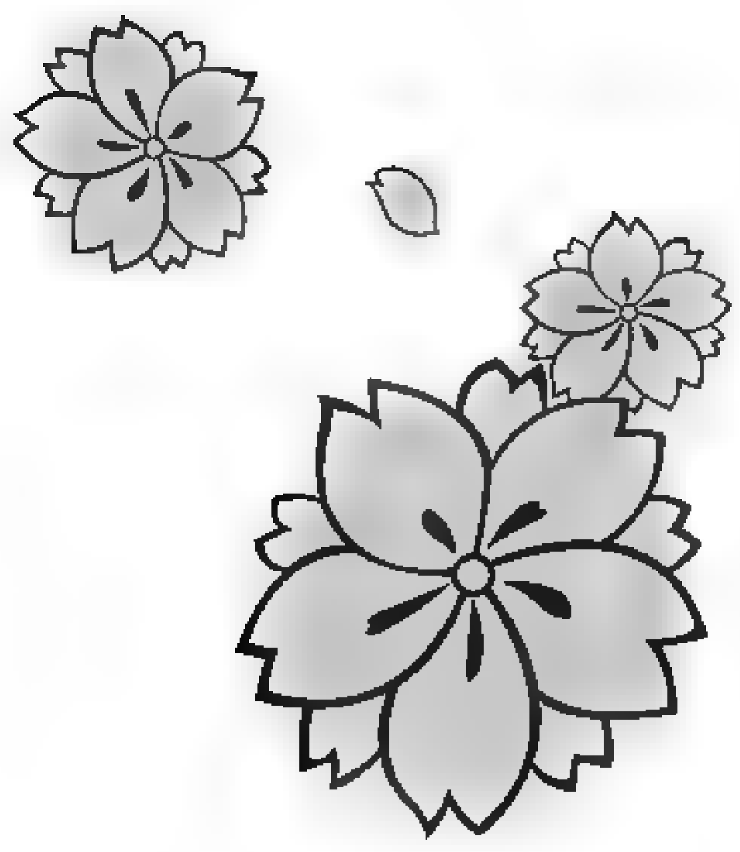
AO! ANY STRAY BULLETS?!
NONE!
WHAT THE?
SKF
...
I SEE NOW.
SO THAT'S WHY OUR FIGHT FELT SO PECULIAR.
IT WAS THOUGHT INTERFERENCE!
IN EVERY CHOICE OF MOVEMENT WE HAD, WE WERE MADE TO CHOOSE THE OPTION WHICH WOULD BRING US CLOSER TO HERE!
WHAT? REALLY?
UH-HUH...
AT THE SAME TIME, SHE LED US DOWN THE LEAST INHABITED ROUTE...
...TAND INSTRUCTED RESIDENTS ALONG THE WAY TO EVACUATE TELEPATHICALLY...
...ALL IN REAL-TIME TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES TO ZERO.
AND TO THINK...

...SHE CARRIED OUT ALL OF THIS BY HERSELF.
あお～ん
AWOO...
REMARKABLE.
ABSOLUTELY REMARKABLE.
済
THE SATORI'S POWER IS FASCINATING! I ABSOLUTELY MUST COLLECT MORE PRECISE DATA...
HEY.
ARE YOU THE ONE... WHO DID THIS TO TOUKA?
AAH, THE OTHER ONI IS HERE, AS WELL!
WHAT A TREAT!
I MIGHT NOT HAVE ENOUGH MEMORY TO RECORD EVERYTHING...
CRACK

I'M ASKING IF IT WAS YOU!

72ND NIGHT ONI TALE (PART FOUR) END

YOZAKURA QUARTET
13



ひゅー…
WEW
OOP…
スタッ
TAP
THANKS, YAE.
MM-HM. TAKE CARE, NOW.
I'LL GET YELLED AT AGAIN IF I INTERFERE DIRECTLY…
AND I'M COUNTIN' ON YA.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WOULD YOU GIVE ME A LIFT TO HIME-CHIN'S PLACE?
NOOOT A CHANCE.
プップー
HONK HONK
るるる…
VRR
YOO-HOO!
WANT A RIDE?

#73 ONI TALE (EPILOGUE)

BAM
BAM
I'M ASKING...
SKSH
SKSH
...IF IT WAS YOU!
WHACK
WOW.
YOU'RE EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN I IMAGINED! WONDERFUL!
OH, YES, YES, IT WAS ME.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO TOUKA...
...TO LEAVE HER LOOKING LIKE THAT?!
UMM... OH, RIGHT. MY PHONE WAS BROKEN.
BUT FEAR NOT, I DO HAVE ONE PHOTO LEFT ON HERE.
THIS SHOULD GIVE YOU AN IDEA.
THE REST HAVE ALREADY BEEN BACKED UP TO THE SERVER.
I SUSPECT DOZENS OF PEOPLE ARE ANALYZING THEM RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

BAM
SPLENDID.
ROOSTER.
MONKEY.
REBOOT!
BEEP

WHISH
WHISH
UGH. THOSE SHIKIGAMI* JUST WON'T GO DOWN.
NOTHING WORKS.
THEN—
WHOA!
DUCK
すぽ
SWISH
HEY, HIME! KEEP IRUKA BUSY!
FWSH
AAAH!
SWISH
WHA...
HRGH!
KINK

*Paper spirits summoned using *Onmyodo*.

THIS IS INSANE!
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING AGAINST...
KINK
KINK
KINK
...AN ARMY!
CLANG
DAMN IT!
WE CAN'T FIGHT WITH HER FLAILING AROUND IN THIS TIGHT SPACE!
WHIF
BUT SHE'S A HALF-DEMON, RIGHT?!
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THEN...
TAP
ぴた

BZZT
SMIRK
HUH?!
IF SHE'S A HALF-DEMON, THEN WHY WON'T TUNING WORK?!
?
NO GOOD, AFTER ALL...
WHAP
AGH!
YOU'VE SNUCK UP ON ME MULTIPLE TIMES NOW.
THAT'S VERY IMPRESSIVE.
KIK
KIK

IN-DEED.
IT'S STRANGE THAT HE'S NOT A MAIN COMBATANT.
IF YOU EVER LOSE YOUR JOB, THE SENATE WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.
ギギ
KRK
SHUT UP...
ギギギ
KRK
FU, FU.
FU, FU, FU.
THIS ARM FEELS SO GOOD...
OW...
ギチッ
KIK
バチッ
BZT
SAY, WOULD YOU LET ME KEEP THIS ARM, AT LEAST?
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT...
...AND PLAY WITH IT LOTS.
OKAY? PLEASE?
キラッ
GLINT
ド
THUD
?

KIIING
キィィン…
HUH? ISN'T THAT …
…YAE-SAN'S …?
ゴ
ゴ
GRR
ゴ…
WHOOA!
WHOOSH
オ
オ

WHA-
WHAT THE?! LOOK AT ALL THIS SPACE!
ば〜ん
BOOM
YARD WORK'S GONNA BE A PAIN ...!
FORGET ABOUT THAT!
SHE'LL TURN IT BACK TO NORMAL LATER!
THANKS, YAE-SAN.
I WANNA PLAY, TOOOO!
ALL RIGHT.
THMP
ぐッ
THERE'S STILL ENOUGH DRAGON POWER.
FLASH
パァ
GODS SURE ARE SOME-THING...
KRK
ギ…

C'MON! I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
TASTE THE TRUE POWER OF THE DRAGON SPEAR!
SHWOHH
OOOH, THAT LOOKS AMAZING.
I WANT IT.
GIMME!
ぽい
TOSS
FWIP
ばっ

I'LL KEEP HER BUSY!
YOU GUYS DEAL WITH HIM!
MISS...
UNDERSTOOD!
ザッ
SKSH
ピッ BEEP
ピッ BEEP
TOO BAD.
I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED ALL THE DATA I NEED.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO MOVE ON TO THE EXPERIMENT STAGE.
ピッ BEEP
A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF ENERGY IS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPERIMENT OF THIS SCALE.
ゴ GR
WHILE I WAS IN ENGLAND, THE MOST I COULD DO WAS FORMULATE A THEORY.
ゴ
I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO SETTLE WITH SIMULATIONS,
BUT I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I RETURNED TO JAPAN.
ゴ RR
TO THINK THERE WAS ONE RIGHT HERE IN THIS TOWN.
ゴ

THE MASSIVE COLLECTION OF ENERGY...
...KNOWN AS THE SEVEN PILLARS.
GWOH
ARE YOU NUTS?!
THEY AREN'T MEANT TO BE USED LIKE THAT!
WOO
AN EXPERIMENT THAT USES THAT MUCH ENERGY?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?!
OO

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT!
STAY ON GUARD...
...KYO... SUKE!
RIGHT...
ROKKAKU, TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
...
TOUKA, I MEAN!
TOUKA...
R-RIGHT!
UNDERSTOOD.
WHAT IS THIS AWFUL FEELING?
IT'S LIKE MY MIND'S BEING FLOODED WITH INK.
...
WHAT IS IT...
...I'M FIGHTING FOR AGAIN?

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES IN THIS COUNTRY, THAT WHICH IS "UNKNOWN" HAS ALWAYS BEEN MET WITH...
PANIC...
DESPAIR...
DREAD...
...DISMAY.
IN SHORT, "FEAR."
THAT WHICH WAS ONCE CALLED "ONU," MEANING "HIDDEN,"
CHANGED OVER TIME...
...INTO WHAT WE NOW CALL "ONI."

PEOPLE'S PIETY,
IMAGINATION...
...AND CAUTION...
...ALL MIXED TOGETHER TO FORM THE LEGEND OF THE ONI.
A FAIRY TALE.
AND FROM THAT *KOTODAMA*, YOU TWO WERE BORN.
FZT
FZT
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT...?
FZT
?!
ZZT
HUH...?
I BELIEVE...
...THAT SCIENCE SHOULD BE USED TO BETTER SOCIETY.
I WANT TO MAKE THIS WORLD A HAPPY ONE.
AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I MUST ELIMINATE "FEAR" FROM IT.

I WANT TO ERASE THE CONCEPT OF "ONI"...
...FROM THE MINDS OF EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET.
BUT THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ONI?
THAT IS WHAT THIS EXPERIMENT IS FOR.
!
済

MY BODY'S ...
WOO
THE ONI WERE BORN FROM THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE,
AND THE ONLY THING TYING THEM TO THIS WORLD ARE THOSE SAME HEARTS.
OO
IF THE ONI ARE ERASED FROM THEIR HEARTS, THEN SO, TOO, SHOULD THE ANCHOR VANISH.
WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
OO
THE "ONI"...
...WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

UGH...
ゴ
GRR
ONII-CHAN...
ゴゴ
...
THE SISTER ISN'T DISAPPEARING AS SMOOTHLY.
WHY...?
WELL, THIS IS WITHIN THE MARGIN OF ERROR.
JUST UP THE OUTPUT, AND...
...THERE.
GWOH
ピッ
BEEP
KUH...!
WOO
OO
TCH...
OO
GRR...
OO

ONII-CHAN!
NO!
DON'T DISAPPEAR!
GUYS, PLEASE!
DON'T ...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT "ONI"!
... ONI ...
"ONI"?
WHAT'S THAT ...?

FWISH
TAK

NO! ONII-CHAN...!
SKRIT
SKRIT
HOW STRANGE.
WHY HASN'T THE SISTER DISAPPEARED YET?
LET'S TRY APPLYING SPIRITUAL PRESSURE DIRECTLY.
BEEP
VOOM
!
AAAH!
THEN I'LL JUST UP THE OUTPUT EVEN MORE.
THERE. THAT SHOULD MAKE EVERYONE FORGET.
... EVERYONE'S FORGETTING...
...ABOUT ME AND ONII-CHAN.
THEY'RE FORGETTING...
...ABOUT THE ONI.

FOR...
...GET-TING...
スゥッ...
WHOOSH
GWOH
HEY...
ゆら...
SWAY
YOU'D BETTER STOP NOW IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
GET AWAY FROM TOUKA!

?!
YEAH...
YOU'RE GONNA GET THE BEATING OF A LIFETIME...
...FROM *KYOSUKE!*
ずず
ZRR
KOTOHA-CHAN.
AKINA-SAN...
I DUNNO WHAT YOU MEAN BY "ONI,"
BUT HOW COULD I EVER FORGET ABOUT KYOSUKE?
ALL HE EVER TALKS ABOUT IS TOUKA-CHAN. HE'S UPTIGHT, STUBBORN...
...AND WE'VE BEEN GETTING INTO FIGHTS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

HE STILL OWES ME A PUNCH TO THE JAW!
LIKE HELL I'D EVER FORGET ABOUT THAT!
JUST FROM THAT?!
ピー ピー
BEEP BEEP
ERROR
BZT
BZT
!
HNGH... EVERYONE'S MEMORIES OF ONI...
...BURIED DEEP WITHIN THEIR HEARTS.
FOR NOW...
...HERE'S ENOUGH FOR THE TOWN!
TOSS
BZT

SWIF
すぅ,
...!
PULL
THIS CAN'T BE!
BUT MY...
MY CALCULATIONS SAY...!
BEEP
ピッ
BEEP
BEEP
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS...
...AREN'T GONNA LOSE TO SCIENCE!
YANK

SHOOP
ONII-CHAN!
IMPOSSIBLE!
IMPOSSIBLE!
IMPOSSIBLE!
ダ TAP
ダ TAP
ダ TAP
ダ TAP
IMPOSSIBLE!
ダ TAP
ダ TAP

DOOM
BA-
I'VE CONVERTED...
...THE SEVEN PILLARS' POWER INTO ONMYO MAGIC!
WHOOSH
I'LL CRUSH YOU!
GRR
KYOSUKE!
URGH...
RR

GIVE IT A REST...
...YOU BASTARD!
GRR
AAH,
HOW VERY FRIGHTENING.
AS I THOUGHT, ONI ARE SCARY! THEY MUST BE ELIMINATED!
GWOH
ONII-CHAN!
STAY BACK, TOUKA-SAN.
GUH...
I CAN'T...

FREEZE
?!
BVV
BVVVV
!
WHAT THE?!
BEEP
BEEP
ROOSTER! MONKEY! MOVE, DAMN IT!
BEEP
HEY!
!
WHAT IS THIS POWER ...?
GRR

THAT'S TOO FAR.
YOU PUSHED YOUR LUCK, MURASAKI.
THE ONI ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF THE TRUTH WHICH LIES WITHIN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
IT'S THOSE VERY "FEELINGS" PASSED DOWN FROM PARENT TO CHILD, CHILD TO GRANDCHILD, OVER DOZENS OF GENERATIONS WHICH MANIFESTED INTO A FAIRY TALE.
YOU WENT AND TIPPED THAT BALANCE...
...AND HAPPENED TO GATHER CERTAIN "ELEMENTS" HERE.
AND NOW...
...ANOTHER FAIRY TALE HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT WITH YOUR INTUITION, MURASAKI.
PUT TOGETHER "ONI"...

A "DOG" ...
...A "MONKEY" ...
...A "PHEASANT"...
...AND WHAT DO YOU GET...?

"MOMO-TARO"?!

THIS POWER...!
WOOOO
WHETHER IT WAS FATE THAT BROUGHT EVERYTHING TOGETHER, OR PURE CHANCE,
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.
"TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION."
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY. MAKE SURE TO TAKE IT ALL IN.
THE MOMENT WHEN FAIRY TALE SWALLOWS REALITY!

BOOM

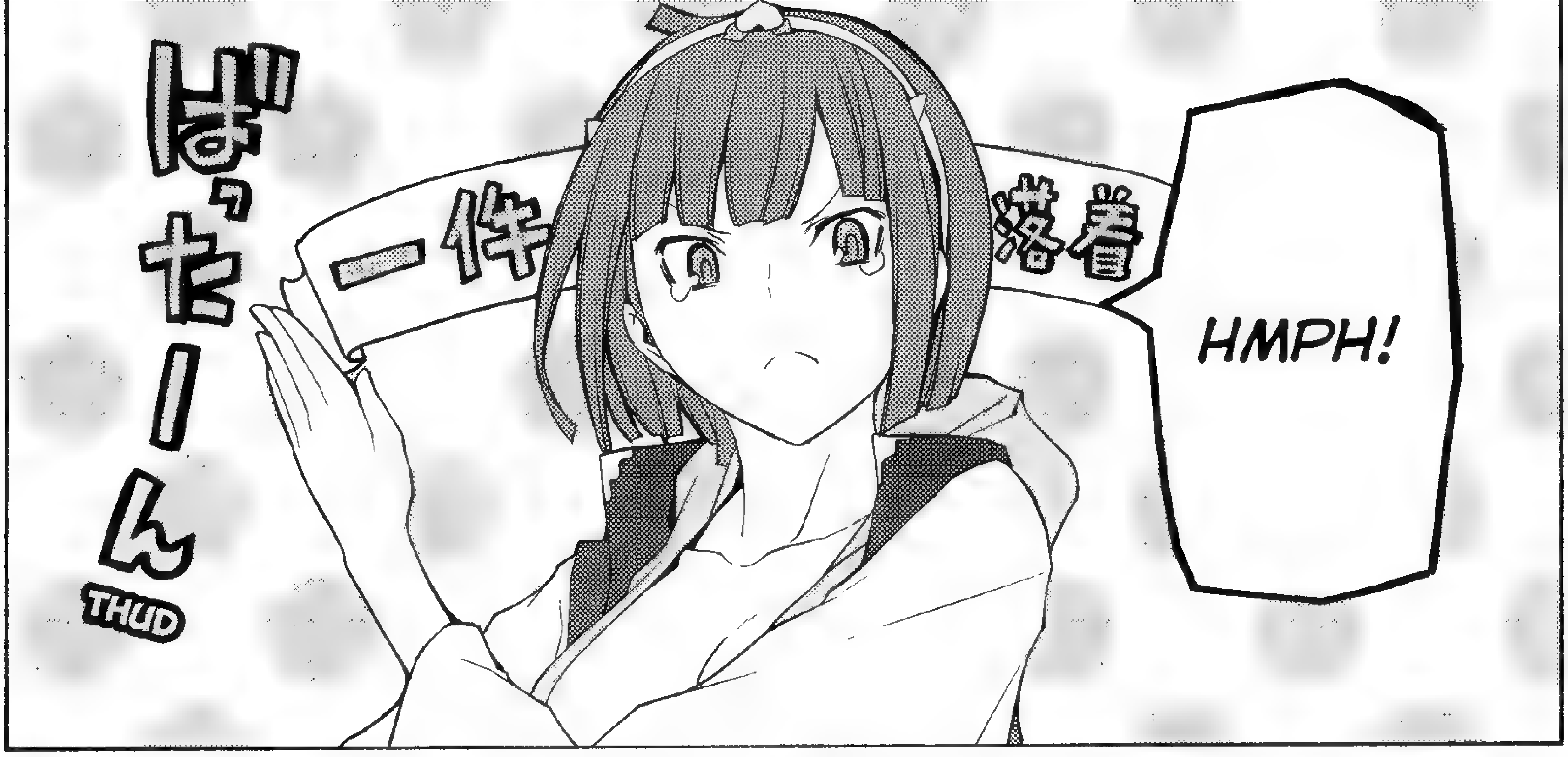
HER ?!
WHOOSH
WHAAA?!

SHY AND TIMID,
YET KIND, DEVOUT, AND RESPECTFUL.
I CAN'T SAY I HATE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.
THIS LAND AND ITS CULTURE GAVE BIRTH TO FAIRY TALES...
...OF A COUNTLESS NUMBER AND VARIETY.
MYRIAD UNIQUE TALES...
...WHICH EQUAL THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.
THOSE FEELINGS AREN'T SO FEEBLE THAT THEY'D BE TRAMPLED ON BY THE LIKES OF YOU.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS COUNTRY...
...MURASAKI!

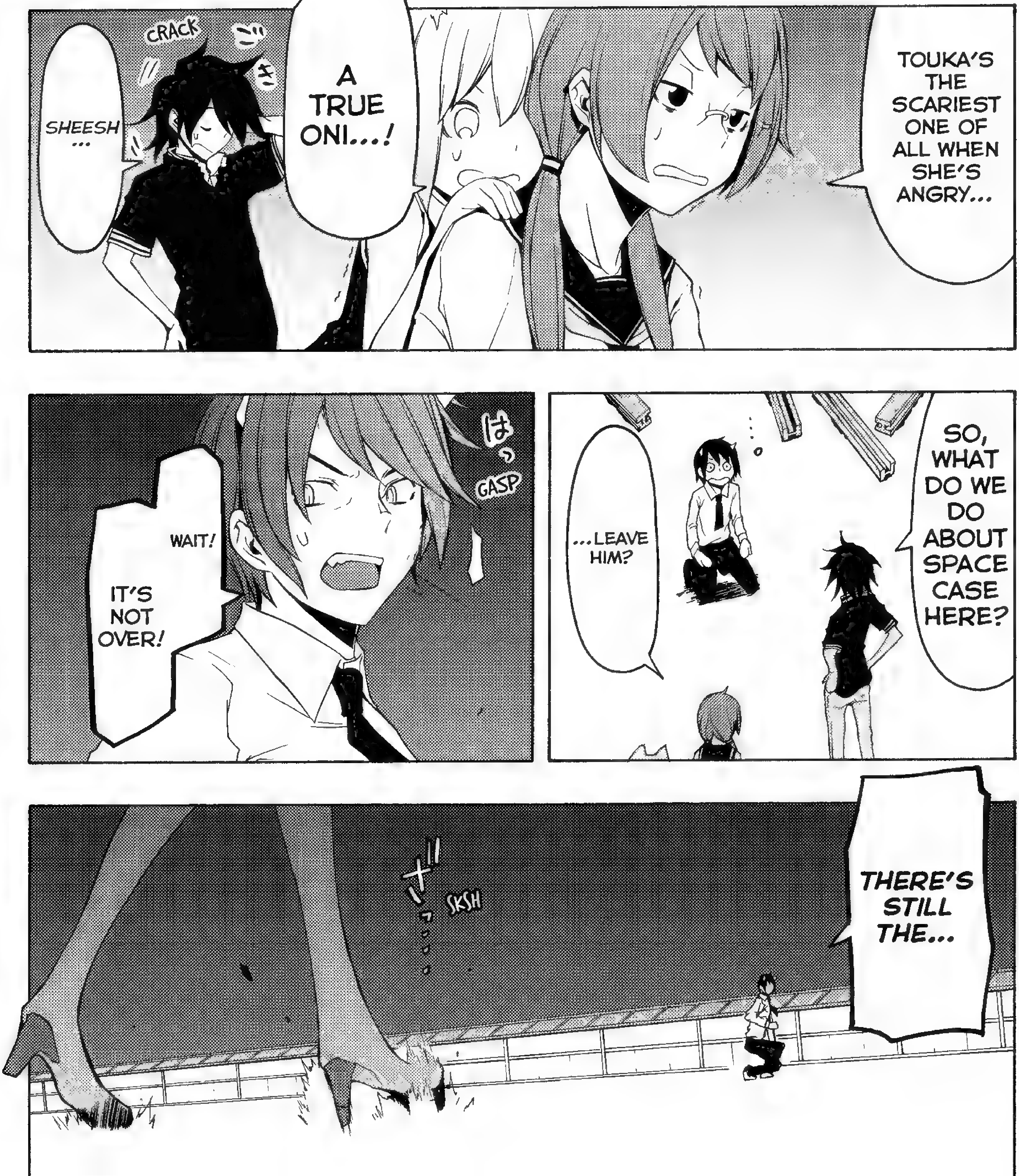
FOOM
WHY?
WHY DO I...
...HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS?
FOOM
FOOM
CAN'T A GENTLE ONI LIKE ME JUST BE LEFT ALONE?
WHY DO I...
...HAVE TO BE PUSHED AROUND BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU?
FOOM
I TRY TO BE NICE... AND YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST HAVE YOUR WAY!
FOOM
FOOM
CHILDREN LIKE YOU...
FOOM
...NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.
THERE'S JUST ONE THING I WANT TO SAY TO YOU...
FOOSH

LEARN...
...SOME MANNERS!

SLAP


HMPH!
一件落着
ばったーん
THUD

Scroll: That's that!


TOUKA'S THE SCARIEST ONE OF ALL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY...
A TRUE ONI...!
ごき
CRACK
SHEESH...
SO, WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT SPACE CASE HERE?
...LEAVE HIM?
...
は、
GASP
WAIT!
IT'S NOT OVER!
THERE'S STILL THE...
ざ…
SKSH

ONI... MY ONI...
THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT...

ずず
ZSH
だだっ
TMP
TMP
HIME!
GAAH, SHE JUST LEAPT AWAY ALL OF A SUDDEN!
ずぅ…
ZSH
ゆら
SWAY
あ…

...?
WHAT'S WITH THAT STANCE?
IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING UNTIL NOW...
WHOOSH

SWISH
THMP
すた、
TMP
た、
す…
SWIF

ぱちん、
CLINK
どさ
THUD
どざさ
THUD
どさっ。。。
THUD
...!
A-AN OVERHEAD DRAW?!
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT... I'M GOING TO CUT YOU IN THE WAY THAT FEELS THE BEST.
DON'T WORRY.
ずず
ZRR
YOU WON'T FEEL A THING.
ず
ずっ
ZRR
ずっ
...

FLASH
!
SON OF A...
HE ALWAYS PICKS THE WORST TIME TO BUTT IN!

OVER HERE.
LOOK AT ME.
CHIK
CHIK
I'LL CHOP YOU RIGHT IN HALF.
HEY... YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET DROPPED EVEN FURTHER, Y'KNOW.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PULL BACK FOR A BIT AND—
THAT'S FINE.
I ONLY CARE ABOUT SLAYING ONI.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
KRK
KRK
GAAH. IF TUNING WON'T WORK, WHAT WILL?

CRACK
ゴキッ
...
HEY, AKINA...
...YEAH.
THAT'S PROBABLY IT.
LICK
HERE IT COMES!
WHOOSH
DASH

A HALF-DEMON THAT CAN'T BE TUNED... THERE'S NO SUCH THING.

THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION. I WAS TRYING TO TUNE THE WRONG TARGET.
YOU'RE THE ACTUAL CORE,
DEMON BLADE "ONI SLAYER"!
FLASH

AKI-NA!
WO
I KNOW!
HE'S STILL ...
ぐにゃっ
BEND
!

IT'S GOING FOR HIM?!
HA HA!
THE POWER OF DEMONS WILL BE MINE?
AMAZING!
SIMPLY AMAZING!
OH, NO!
I...
...CAN HAVE DEMONIC POWER!

BAM

WOOOOO
I DON'T NEED IT!
DOOM

...HA HA.
WANNA PULL THROUGH ON YOUR OWN STRENGTH ALONE, HUH?
PARDON ME FOR BEING NOSY.
WELL...
I'M NOT SO SOFT THAT I WOULD GIVE IT TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT IT.
FWOO
ふぅ…
GLARE
ギリッ…
STARE
じり…
ぱさーっ
FLAP
!
WHA?!
CREEP
ぬっ
元老院

Towel: Senate

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
THE COACH HAS THROWN IN THE TOWEL!
じゃ ん
TA-DAAA
DID WE REALLY HAVE TO CLIMB UP HERE, SHIINA-CHAN?
PHEW, FINALLY HERE! WE DROVE AND DROVE, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING BUT WALL!
STOP NOW, AND I WON'T TATTLE TO YOUR DEAR GRANDFATHER.
LET'S GO.
...
...VERY WELL. THE DATA'S ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE SENATE.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO EXAMINE EVERY DETAIL.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT DATA.
I WENT AHEAD AND INTERCEPTED AND DELETED ALL OF IT.
AS IF I'D LET THE BOYS AT THE LAB GET A SINGLE PEEK AT THOSE PHOTOS.
...!
ほっ
PHEW
THANK YOU, SHIINA-SAN.

KYO-SUKE-KUUUN!
ぽいっ
TOSS
!
ぱしっ
CATCH
WHAT'S THIS?
IT CONTAINS DATA ON YOU AND YOUR SISTER.
NO VULGAR PHOTOS, JUST SIMPLE DATA.
WE DIDN'T EVEN LET THE SENATE HAVE IT SINCE YOUR GUYS' ORIGINS ARE SO UNIQUE.
IT ISN'T BACKED UP ANYWHERE.
YOU'RE FREE TO DO WITH IT WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE.
...
...
じっ
GRIP
ぱしっ
CATCH

...!
THAT DATA WILL HELP PROGRESS YOUR RESEARCH ON THE DEMONS, RIGHT?
THEN IT MIGHT HELP FIND A WAY TO STOP THE SEVEN PILLARS FROM BLOOMING.
GO OVER IT WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB, AND IF YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME, THEN COME SEE ME AGAIN.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON ANYTIME.
BUT DON'T YOU DARE LAY A FINGER ON TOUKA!
ONII-CHAN...
YOU LOST, MURASAKI.
TIME TO GO HOME.
...

UUH...
ぽろ
DRIP
ぽろ...
DRIP
DON'T LAY A FINGER ON HER?
YOU THINK... I COULD EVER FORGET THIS HUMILIATION?
YOU BASTARD! YOU STILL...
I'LL EXAMINE EVERY SINGLE DETAIL ON THE SISTER ONI.
DOWN TO THE VERY LAST BYTE OF DATA.
AND ONCE I'VE UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING...
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL COME BACK TO GET YOU.
I'LL MAKE YOUR BODY AND HEART MINE!
...WELL, THAT TOOK AN UNEXPECTED TURN.
ARE YOU GUYS CLOSE?
?
?
?
IS HE PROPOSING?!

WE'RE LEAVING!
FWIP
は
YEAH, YEAH.
I DON'T GET THIS KID.
AKINA-KUN.
I HEAR YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "FEELINGS WON'T LOSE TO SCIENCE,"
BUT THAT'S JUST BECAUSE THIS BOY'S FEELINGS WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
THERE'S NO CREATURE ON THIS PLANET MORE OF A ROMANTIC THAN SCIENTISTS.
REMEMBER THAT.
...SURE.
MURASAKI HIMSELF HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE ONI, AFTER ALL. THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D DISAPPEAR.
HE'S QUITE THE ROMANTIC, AS WELL.
元老院
ALRIGHTY, I'LL GIVE IRUKA-CHAN A RIDE HOME.
HUH? YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO SHE IS?
I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER.
'KAAAY.

しゅるしゅる
SHRINK SHRINK
OH, THE YARD'S BACK TO NORMAL.
!!
WHY DON'T WE SLEEP AT HIME'S TONIGHT?
YAAAY! AGREED! LET'S ALL TAKE A BATH TOGETHER!
GOOD IDEA!
GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME, TOO.
ボキ
CRACK
AKI-NA...
THAT WAS A BIG RISK CATCHING THE SWORD WITH YOUR BARE HANDS.
IT'S GREAT THAT IT WENT WELL AND ALL, BUT YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T PULL THAT OFF AGAIN IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO.
HM?
YOU WOULDN'T ASK ME TO DO IT AGAIN, RIGHT?
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT IT HAPPENED TO GO WELL THE ONE TIME.
ALSO, I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU. I DID IT FOR TOUKA-CHAN!
...HMPH.
THANKS.

ONCE UPON A TIME,
IN A LAND FAR AWAY...
...THERE LIVED TWO ONI.
A WORRYWART OLDER BROTHER ONI...
...AND A BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL LITTLE SISTER ONI.
THEY WERE AS CLOSE AS SIBLINGS COULD BE.
ONE DAY, THE WORRYWART OLDER BROTHER HAD A THOUGHT.
"WILL WE DISAPPEAR IF EVERYONE FORGETS ABOUT THE ONI SOMEDAY?"
AFTER THAT, WITH HIS LITTLE SISTER IN MIND, THE OLDER BROTHER ONI BEGAN TO KEEP A DAILY JOURNAL OF THE MEMORIES THEY MADE.
NO. 6
NO. 1
NO. 5
HE WROTE EVERY SINGLE DAY,
PUTTING STRONG FEELINGS FOR HIS SISTER BEHIND EVERY WORD...

No. 45
...SO THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED...
...THOSE STRONG FEELINGS WOULD KEEP HER FROM DISAPPEARING FROM THIS WORLD.
PHEW
ふぅ…
ONII-CHAAAN! THE BATH'S FREE NOW.
わしわし
RUB RUB
ぬーん
CREEP
ガッチャン
KA-CHINK
?
JEEEEZ! YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING AGAIN! WHAT'S IN THERE?
N-NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.
...

I SEE THOSE MARKS ARE GONE.
CHECKED
OH, YEAH. THEY WERE JUST WRITTEN WITH INK, AFTER ALL.
I'M SORRY...
IF ONLY I'D BEEN MORE CAREFUL, THEN THAT NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO YOU.
HMM? OH, IT'S FINE.
EVERYTHING WORKED OUT IN THE END.
YOU WERE REALLY COOL, ONII-CHAN.
O-OH...
HUH? THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT.
I GUESS I MISSED IT.
はら
LOOK
ギャー!!
GYAAAH!
I KNOW! LET'S TAKE A BATH TOGETHER, ONII-CHAN.
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK, YOU WASH MINE.
WHA-WHA-WHA...

WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL EMBARRASSED? WE TOOK BATHS TOGETHER ALL THE TIME UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE...
OKAY? LET'S GO!
C'MON!
I, UH, ER...
...
早く寝なさい
GET TO BED ALREADY!
MMM. WHAT A LOVELY MORNING.
チュン TSUN
チュン TSUN
デレ DERE
チュン TSUN

MORNING.
I'M HERE TO MAKE BREAKFAST.
HUH?
OH, THANKS.
EVERYONE MUST BE EXHAUSTED, SO I'M GONNA WHIP UP A WHOLESOME MEAL.
G'MORNING.
MORNING.
わやわや HUB BUB
SOUNDS LIKE EVERYONE'S UP.
キキッ SCREECH
ガちゃっ CLACK
パタン THUD
YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE.
YES, MA'AM.
しゃなり GRACEFUL
OH, IT'S IRUKA.
SHE'S A RICH GIRL.

I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.
EHH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU WERE BEING CONTROLLED, AFTER ALL.
I LACKED TRAINING...
AND NOW I'VE EVEN LET YOU TREAT ME TO BREAKFAST...
もし CLICK
がっ MUNCH
がっ MUNCH
FEEL FREE TO ASK FOR SECONDS!
もし CLACK
LOOKS LIKE THAT LISTLESSNESS WAS JUST PART OF HER PERSONALITY.
AO, CAN YOU PASS THE SOY SAUCE?
もし CLACK
TOUKA-CHAN, SEND THIS DOWN, PLEASE.
'KAAAY.
もし CLACK
もし CLICK
もし CLICK
I'D ESPECIALLY LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE ONI...
NO NEED FOR THAT. THAT MURASAKI GUY WAS THE BIGGER PAIN BY FAR! RIGHT, ONII-CHAN?
YEAH.
BUT YOU WERE BEING CONTROLLED TO WORK AS A DEMON HUNTER FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOUR FAMILY REPORT YOU MISSING?
ABOUT THAT...

IT SEEMS I WAS ONLY BEING CONTROLLED AT NIGHT WHILE I WAS ASLEEP.
I ALWAYS RETURNED BEFORE MY MORNING TRAINING, SO NO ONE NOTICED.
I SEE.
SO IT WAS LIKE A NIGHT JOB!
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT...
I SUPPOSE SO.
IT FELT SIMILAR
REALLY?!
THIS GIRL'S A WEIRDO.
THEN I GUESS YOU WERE MADE TO DRESS LIKE THAT, HUH?
DRESS LIKE WHAT?
ぼりぼり
MUNCH MUNCH
SWIMSUIT.
I TOOK A PHOTO. HERE.
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE DON'T SPREAD THAT PICTURE AROUND!
PLEASE DON'T MAKE POSTERS OF IT AND HANG THEM AROUND TOWN!
うえ～ん
WAAAH
WHA?! OF COURSE I WON'T DO THAT!
I'LL DELETE IT, OKAY?! THERE! IT'S GONE!
DEMON BLADE "ONI SLAYER," HUH?
IT'S A GOOD THING WE PURIFIED IT. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT DEMON BLADES REALLY EXIST.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ABOUT THIS SWORD.
ちゃ
CHAK
WHAT NOW? I HOPE IT'S NOT MORE TROUBLE.
IT IS A DEMON BLADE, AFTER ALL.

NOW, NOW. HEAR HER OUT, WON'T YOU?
AAAH!
おわー!?
THE SWORD SPOKE!
GUYS, PLEASE... IT'S STILL A HALF-DEMON AFTER BEING TUNED!
YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D TALK.
SO, YOU WERE SAYING?
YES...
ちょこん
SIT
す
SWIF
DEMON BLADE "ONI SLAYER,"
"DOUJIGIRI YASUTSUNA" OF THE FIVE GREAT SWORDS...
...IS YOURS TO USE.

HUH?
WHY AKINA?
THE HALF-DEMONS' POWER DEVIATES FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS WORD.
A NORMAL PERSON WOULD BE UNABLE TO UNLEASH ITS FULL POWER.
RATHER, THEY WOULD LIKELY BE CONSUMED...
I WOULDN'T DO THAT...
EVEN SO, I AM STILL FAR FROM WORTHY OF WIELDING SUCH A BLADE.
PLEASE, TAKE IT.
...
YEAH. I THINK YOU SHOULD.
AGREED.

LIKE IRUKA SAID, YOU HAVE SHARP EYES, AKINA.
AND GOOD INTUITION.
NOT TO MENTION YOU HAVE THE HIIZUMI'S POWER IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG.
I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD FIT TO KEEP IT.
AYE.
YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO USE IT. JUST KEEP IT. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
THERE'S NO HARM IN HAVING MORE OPTIONS.
...
GOOD POINT.
ぐっ
GRIP
OKAY.
I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT IT.
CHAK
ちゃっ
HIDAGYU
SOMEONE GAVE ME A WATERMELON RECENTLY, ANYWAY.
DON'T CUT FRUIT WITH ME!
へな…
FLOP

WH-WHAT'S WRONG, IRUKA?
ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
I'VE CARRIED THAT SWORD WITH ME SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
WITHOUT IT, I FEEL SO DRAINED...
I EVEN WRAPPED IT IN PLASTIC AND TOOK BATHS WITH IT.
AYE. IT WAS A FEAST FOR THE EYES.
PERV SWORD!
BY THE WAY, I ALSO CONTROLLED HER INTO DRAWING ME FROM IN BETWEEN HER LEGS.
FOR KICKS.
M'KAY! LET'S BREAK IT!
わい
わい
RABBLE RABBLE
MORNING.
SURE IS LIVELY IN HERE.
OH! IT'S THE LADY FROM THE SALON.
YOU FORGOT YOUR HIME MEMO AT THE SHOP, MAYOR.
IT'S IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
HM?
OOH? A KAMAITACHI.
NOT EVERY DAY YOU MEET ONE.
A TALKING SWORD, EH? I'D SAY YOU'RE RARER THAN I AM.
KAMAITACHI?
UH-HUH. LIKE SO.
WEW
ピッ
SNAP

しゅっ
SWISH
カサッ…
RUSTLE
どよっ…
DAZE
I DID IT…
SHE DID IT!
WOW.
THIS IS MY LIFE'S CALLING.
I'LL MASTER THE BLADELESS ARTS!
PLEASE TAKE ME AS YOUR PUPIL!
HUH? I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW, BUT YOU SEEM LIKE AN INTERESTING KID.
SURE, WHY NOT?
DROP BY ANYTIME.
I'LL COME EVERY DAY!
…
S-SAY, IRUKA.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK, TOO.
WOULD YOU MIND BEING MY SPARRING PARTNER?
I'D LIKE TO PRACTICE WITH SOMEONE SKILLED WITH WEAPONS.

...UNDERSTOOD.
IF I CAN BE OF HELP, THEN GLADLY...
OH, IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING ME THE ROPES, TOO?
ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE BASICS IS BETTER THAN NOTHING AT ALL.
ALL RIGHT...
BLADELESS TRAINING, SPARRING, INSTRUCTION...
カチ CLICK
SCHOOL
THEATER
0
12
PRACTICE
TRANSPORT
カチ CLICK
カチ CLICK
チ～ン DING
FULL
TRANSPORT
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I MOVE IN HERE?
えぇ～っ WHAAA
SHE ASKED STRAIGHT UP!

MIGHT BE NEAT.
SURE, WHY NOT.
UWAAAH
JUST LIKE THAT?!
IN THAT CASE, WE HAVE SOME CLEANING TO DO.
WHICH ROOM WAS STILL EMPTY AGAIN?
OH, SHOULD I JUST GIVE HER MINE?
I CAN MOVE INTO ONII-CHAN'S ROOM.
RIGHT, ONII-CHAN? THEN WE'LL ONLY NEED ONE FUTON.
ぎょ URG
WHAT?!
WAIT, THAT'S NOT...
THE SAME ROOM?! THE SAME FUTON, EVEN?!
HMM? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
WE ENDED UP TAKING A BATH TOGETHER LAST NIGHT, ANYWAY.
IT'LL JUST BE LIKE OLD TIMES, RIGHT?
?
ざわ ざわ MUTTER MUTTER
どよ… どよ… HUB BUB
BATH...?
HEY, NOW...
I, UH, ER...

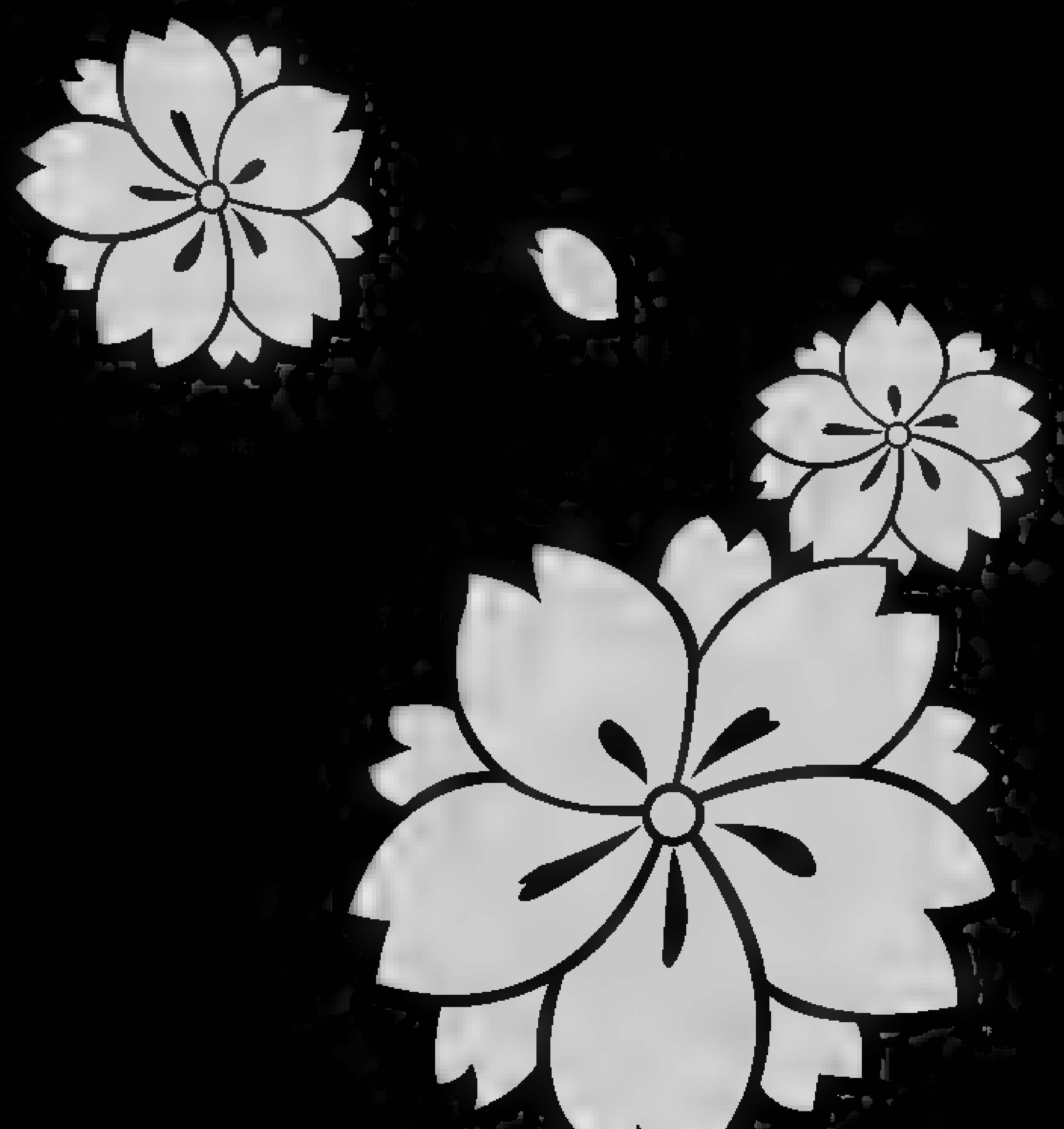
お兄ちゃんはゆるしません
AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I CANNOT ALLOW THIS!

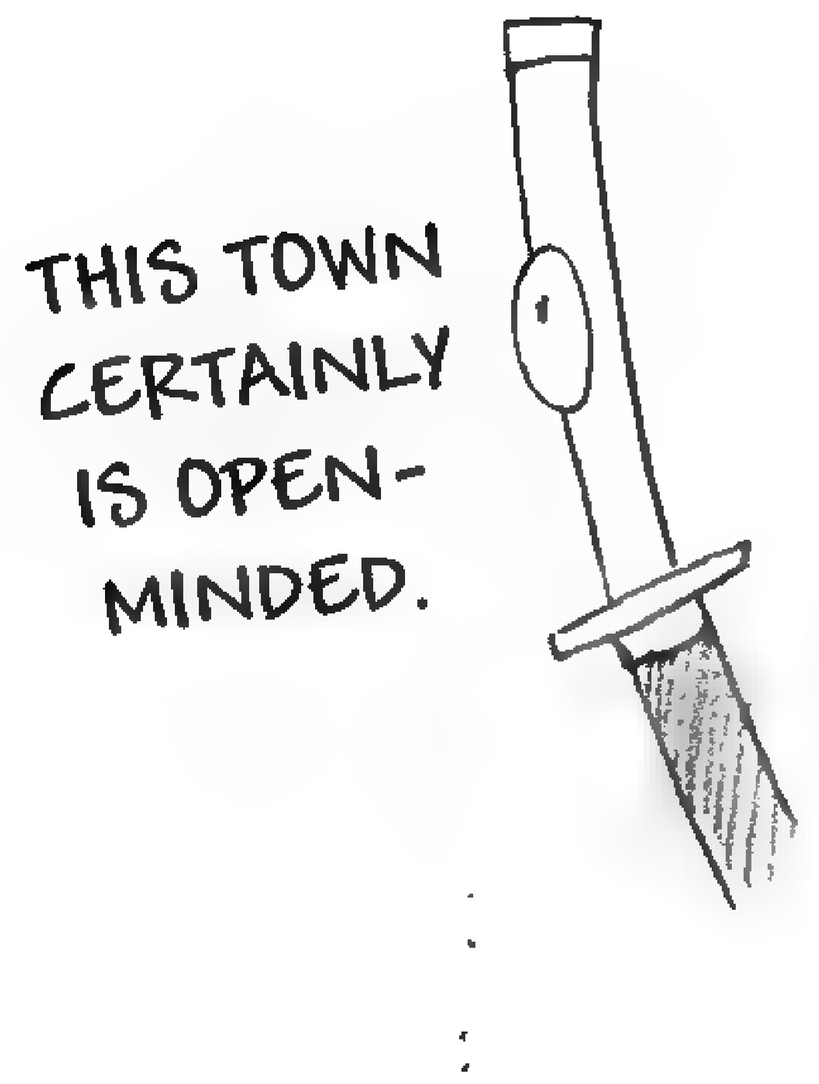
AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

73RD NIGHT ONI TALE (EPILOGUE) END

To be Continued.....

YOZAKURA
QUARTET 14




THIS TOWN CERTAINLY IS OPEN-MINDED.
:
:

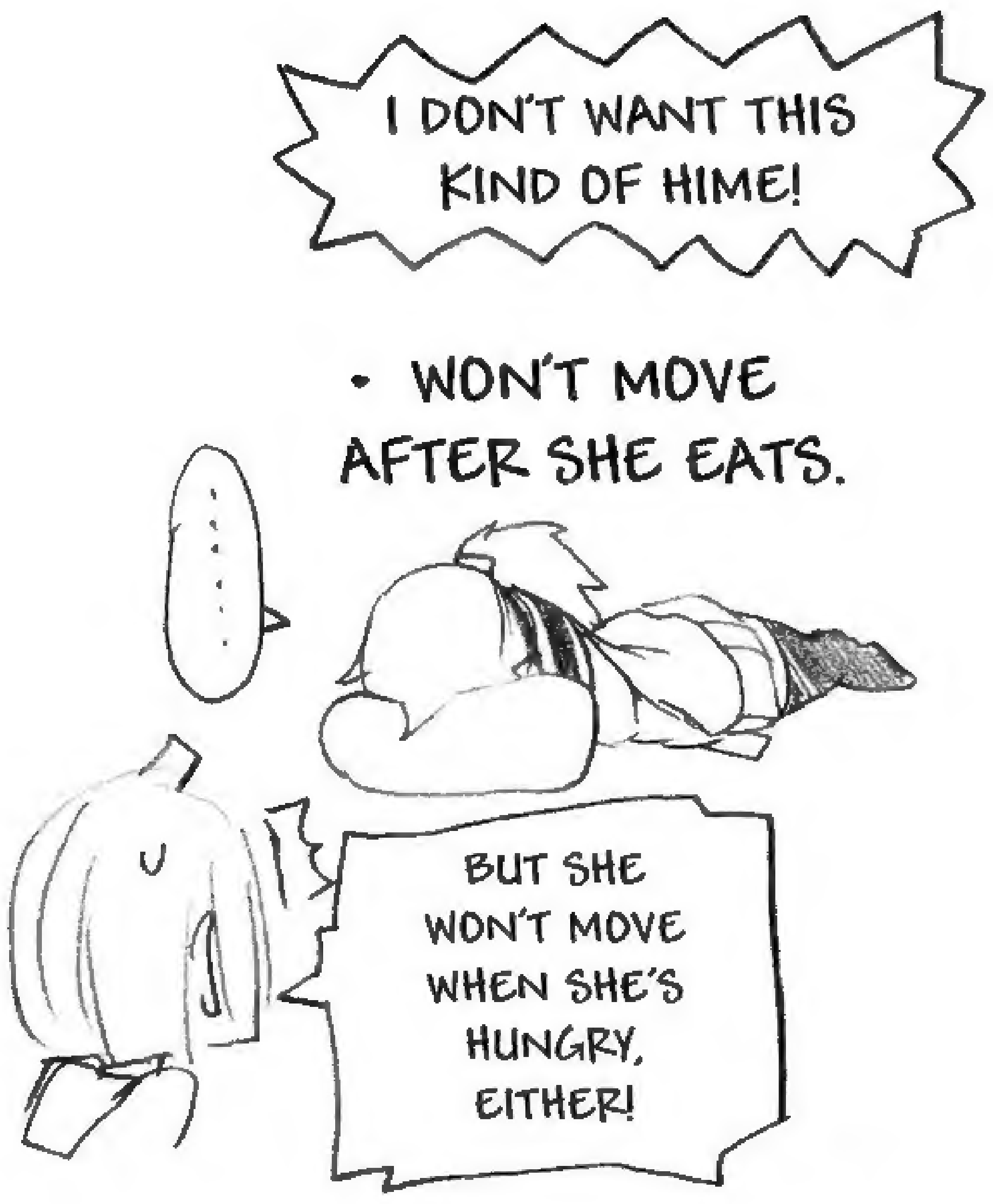
AND SO...
よざカル荘
SNORE
ぐぅ
ぐぅ
SNORE
...THIS GIRL SLEEPING HERE IS A NEW RESIDENT.
LIVING ROOM
TALK ABOUT SUDDEN!
よざカル!
YOZAQUART!
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING THIS, MISS LANDLORD? I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO LOOK...
OH, MY.
BUT THIS IS JUST A SWIMSUIT.
ほら
ぴら
FLIP
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOT THAT IT MAKES IT ANY LESS SKETCHY...

SIgn: YozaQuart Manor

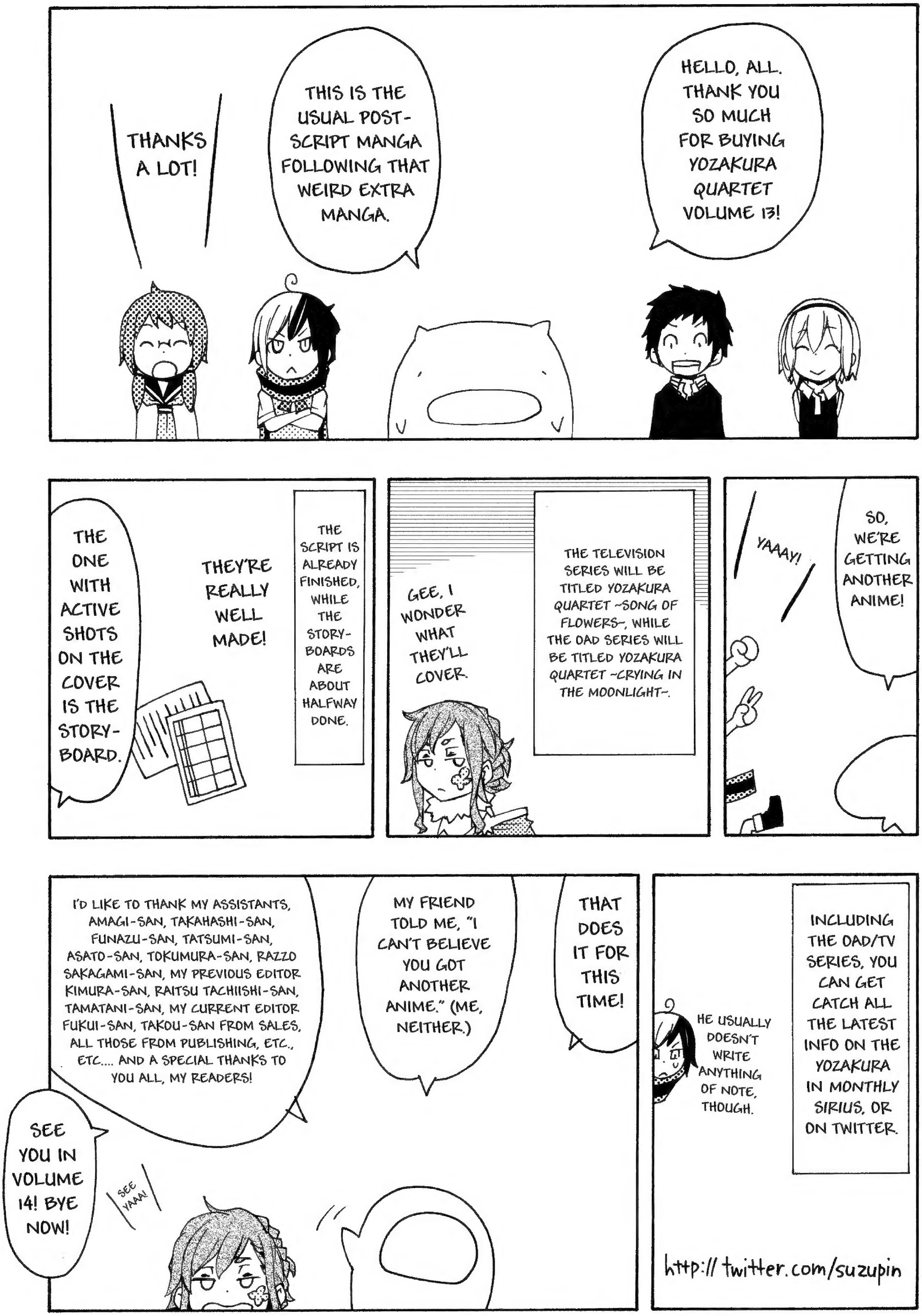
WELL, FOR NOW, CARRY HER THIS WAY, WILL YOU?
M'KAY.
HUP...
どさっ
FUMP
WAIT, ISN'T THIS TABLE FOR MAKING NOODLES?
WHY DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
I MAKE NOODLES IN MY FREE TIME.
ぐでー
SNORE
♪
AND WHY ARE YOU STRIPPING HER?!
BECAUSE I HAVE TO KNEAD THESE DOUGHBALLS HERE...
z z z
YOU SOUND LIKE A PERVY OLD MAN!
SHE'S GONNA WAKE UP!
のに
POKE
のに
POKE
麺棒
MMM...
SEE?! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
ぱっ
SNAP

Stick: Rolling Pin

I SEE. SO I WAS CARRIED TO THE NOODLE TABLE WHILE I WAS ASLEEP AND WAS ABLE TO BE NOODLED...
IT'S A GOOD THING I'M WEARING A SWIMSUIT.
ハキハキ
CLEAR-CUT
I'M GLAD YOU'RE QUICK ON THE UPTAKE!
ALSO, SWIMSUITS ARE ALL-PURPOSE, HUH?!
BUT... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE NOODLES LIKE THIS.
HM? WHAT? WE'RE STILL GOING TO?
YOU HAVE TO COAT ME WITH FLOUR FIRST...
ぬ
MOOSH
IS THIS GIRL DRUNK OR SOMETHING?!
THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
PHEW... GOOD THING I'M IN A SWIMSUIT.
IS IT REALLY?!


I DON'T WANT THIS KIND OF HIME!
• WON'T MOVE AFTER SHE EATS.
......
BUT SHE WON'T MOVE WHEN SHE'S HUNGRY, EITHER!

POSTSCRIPT MANGA


HELLO, ALL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BUYING YOZAKURA QUARTET VOLUME 13!
THIS IS THE USUAL POST-SCRIPT MANGA FOLLOWING THAT WEIRD EXTRA MANGA.
THANKS A LOT!
SO, WE'RE GETTING ANOTHER ANIME!
YAAAY!
THE TELEVISION SERIES WILL BE TITLED YOZAKURA QUARTET ~SONG OF FLOWERS~, WHILE THE OAD SERIES WILL BE TITLED YOZAKURA QUARTET ~CRYING IN THE MOONLIGHT~.
GEE, I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL COVER.
THE SCRIPT IS ALREADY FINISHED, WHILE THE STORYBOARDS ARE ABOUT HALFWAY DONE.
THEY'RE REALLY WELL MADE!
THE ONE WITH ACTIVE SHOTS ON THE COVER IS THE STORYBOARD.
INCLUDING THE OAD/TV SERIES, YOU CAN GET CATCH ALL THE LATEST INFO ON THE YOZAKURA IN MONTHLY SIRIUS, OR ON TWITTER.
HE USUALLY DOESN'T WRITE ANYTHING OF NOTE, THOUGH.
http:// twitter.com/suzupin
THAT DOES IT FOR THIS TIME!
MY FRIEND TOLD ME, "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT ANOTHER ANIME." (ME, NEITHER.)
I'D LIKE TO THANK MY ASSISTANTS, AMAGI-SAN, TAKAHASHI-SAN, FUNAZU-SAN, TATSUMI-SAN, ASATO-SAN, TOKUMURA-SAN, RAZZO SAKAGAMI-SAN, MY PREVIOUS EDITOR KIMURA-SAN, RAITSU TACHIISHI-SAN, TAMATANI-SAN, MY CURRENT EDITOR FUKUI-SAN, TAKOU-SAN FROM SALES, ALL THOSE FROM PUBLISHING, ETC., ETC.... AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU ALL, MY READERS!
SEE YOU IN VOLUME 14! BYE NOW!
SEE YAAA!

Yozakura Quartet 13

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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